

Column
CHRONICLE

Argentines lose \$73,000 in Atlanta hotel burglary

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U.S. steps up hunt for Saudi bombers

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. government on Monday began distributing over 1,000 posters written in Arabic and English as part of its latest effort to track down those responsible for the June bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 Americans. The State Department also said it planned to place advertisements in newspapers throughout the Middle East advertising the \$2 million reward it has offered for information leading to the terrorists. "This is a world-wide appeal," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. The poster features a photograph of the bombed barracks that housed U.S. troops near Dhahran, which were the target of the June 25 truck-bomb. There is also a quote from the 18th century writer Edmund Burke that reads: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Mr. Burns said the investigation into the bombing was ongoing and that Saudi and U.S. authorities had yet to determine who was responsible for the attack.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Israel to ease closure of territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced here on Monday that he had decided to further ease the blockade of the Palestinian territories by allowing another 5,000 Palestinian workers to enter Israel. "We have decided this morning, after consultation with our defence minister, to ease up on the closure and allow another 5,000 Palestinian workers to come and work in Israel," he told a press conference. The blockade of the territories was ordered in late February after a series of suicide bombings carried out by Palestinian militants that left 60 people dead in Israel. The closure denied tens of thousands of Palestinians employment in Israel. Mr. Netanyahu told the Amman press conference: "We do not apply closure in principle. It is not a principle, it is a measure of security that fluctuates according to the conditions of security." Since his victory in May 29 elections, Mr. Netanyahu eased the blockade to allow 30,000 Palestinians to return to their jobs in Israel.

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Netanyahu visit gives a boost to bilateral ties, peace process

Progress seen on moves to address most outstanding issues between Jordan, Israel
Israeli premier says he is encouraged by Syrian desire to resume peace talks
Israel wants to breathe new life into peace treaty
'Lebanon first' could be very good starting point

By P.V. Vivekanand
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Most of outstanding issues between Jordan and Israel appeared to be headed for solutions with the visit on Monday of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who also promised to remove obstacles in building economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Israeli prime minister, who held talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and other senior officials, also gave public reassurances over several issues that are of concern to Jordan.

At a joint press conference with Mr. Netanyahu after the talks, the King sig-

nalled that he was satisfied with the outcome of the discussions and said the Israeli leader had reiterated his commitment to peace and to "all that was agreed upon and his desire to continue in building what was achieved in the peace process."

On the bilateral level in the context of economic cooperation, the King said: "We will focus on building on the solid foundation... Naturally many of the projects and ideas needed research, feasibility studies and other things."

Some conclusions have been reached and "now we are in the decision-making stage," he said.

"We will continue to cooperate and here in Jordan we will exert every possible effort to achieve

(Continued on page 7)

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday he was encouraged by what he heard from His Majesty King Hussein of Syria's desire to resume peace talks with the Jewish state and called on Damascus to return to the negotiating table.

Mr. Netanyahu, speaking at a joint press conference after talks with King Hussein at the Royal Palace, implicitly renewed his offer to withdraw Israeli forces from Lebanon as the first step towards creating mutual confidence with Syria.

"I was asked about what I learned from His Majesty from his discussions in Damascus," said Mr. Netanyahu referring to the talks the King held with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Saturday. "And what I learned was that

there was a clear expression of a desire to resume the quest for peace in Damascus and that's encouraging."

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"It is something that we will readily take up," said Mr. Netanyahu, pointedly refraining from restating his hardline positions that have raised serious questions over the course of the five-year-old Middle East peace process.

"Our objective is to achieve formal peace with Syria," said Mr. Netanyahu, whose stated rejection of any return of Syria's Golan Heights in direct conflict with the Syrian demand in the negotiations.

"We believe that if there is goodwill on the side of Syria, we can resume the

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday hold a joint press conference in Amman (Reuters photo)

Jerusalem should not be redivided but should be a symbol of peace — King
Issue should be left to final status negotiations and Palestinians will make their own decision

By P.V. Vivekanand
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday Jerusalem should not be redivided but the King reiterated Jordan's position that the future of the Holy City should be determined in the final status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

King Hussein, addressing a joint press conference with Mr. Netanyahu after talks at the Royal Palace, also said Jordan was not trying to bypass the Palestinians or trying to act on their behalf in their negotiations with Israel.

He expressed hope that there would be "enough imagination, enough goodwill and enough vision to make Jerusalem something very, very unusual, something very, very special" in the context of a comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East.

"It never occurred to us at any point in time in fact since 1967 that the city (Jerusalem), in the context of peace, should be rediv-

ed," the King said in reply to a question.

"We are speaking of a Jerusalem that can be the symbol and essence of peace for the followers of the three great Abrahamic religions and becomes, hopefully, the symbol of peace also between Israel and the Palestinians and all in this region," the King said.

At the same time, the King pointed out, "this is a subject to be discussed later as agreed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and leadership in the final status negotiations."

Mr. Netanyahu, paying his first visit to Jordan after winning elections in May, pointedly referred to Jordan's "special role" in the Muslim holy places as cited in the Washington Declaration that the Kingdom and Israel signed in July 1994, paving the way for the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in October that year.

"I believe that Jerusalem will not be divided; not only that it should not be but it will not be, simply because no one interested

in peace and no one interested in future harmony between Israelis and Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians and the access of all three faiths to the holy places should ever want to reconstruct the wall in the heart of the city," said the Israeli prime minister.

Acknowledging that Israel had its "own views" on Jerusalem that conflict with the Palestinian demand for the eastern half of the city as the capital of their future state, Mr. Netanyahu promised that his government would not try to change the status of the Holy City in the interim period ahead of the final status negotiations.

He also implicitly urged that the Palestinians to refrain from trying to change the status of the city.

Rather than dwelling on the differences at this point, Mr. Netanyahu said, "I prefer to stick to the agreed-upon framework of an interim settlement that in fact agreed that there will be no changes in the status of Jerusalem and that no one should try to change the current status of the city as a united city."

He said Israel recognised the Jordanian role in the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

"The Washington Declaration recognises Jordan's special role in the Muslim holy places in Jerusalem," he said. "This is also an important aspect of the existing arrangements in Jerusalem which I think should be adhered to."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which heads the PNA based in the Gaza Strip, had protested the reference to Jordan in the context of Jerusalem. The controversy subsided after Jordan assured the PLO that its role in Jerusalem was strictly in a religious context that does not infringe upon the political rights of the Palestinians in the Holy City.

Since then, very little public reference had been made to the Washington Declaration in an obvious bid not to reignite the controversy while the PNA has appointed its own people to run the administration of the Muslim holy places in Jerusalem.

House rejects motion to drop hike in bread prices, forms committee to ensure subsidies reach needy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament in a non-binding vote on Monday turned down a proposal calling on the government to abandon its intention to increase bread prices by three-fold, but agreed to form a committee to make sure that bread subsidy would reach the needy.

The proposal received 24 votes out of 74 deputies present. The government earlier rejected another proposal to increase bread prices two-fold without compensating people. The government of Abdul Karim Kabariti said it could only widen the base of those who are entitled for free bread but could not do more.

Addressing the Lower House of Parliament at the end of a two-day debate on the government's plan to float bread prices, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti defended his pro-

gramme saying that all of the deputies' proposed alternatives had been studied but found to increase rather than decrease budget deficit.

Under the government plan a kilo of bread would be sold at 250 fils, up from 85 fils at present. But the government pledged that each Jordanian will be entitled to a minimum of JD 1.28 a month in compensation from the Treasury.

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, who spoke on behalf of the National Front bloc that groups four political parties, had proposed during Sunday's session that the government carry out its plan on stages starting by increasing the price of bread to 150 fils per kilo as a first step and without compensation.

Rejecting the proposal, the prime minister noted that while it might save the Treasury up to JD 25 million, this plan would impose additional financial burdens on the needy and poor.

Referring to a demand by Deputy Mansour Ben Tarif, spokesperson of the National Action Front bloc, that the government increase from JD 1.28 to JD 2 per capita the cash compensation, the prime minister regretted that this proposal would burden the budget with an additional JD11 million.

But what the government can do is "widen the base of needy groups entitled for bread free of charge," promised Mr. Kabariti saying he would rely on the National Aid Fund for records to carry out this plan.

He also announced that the government has already allocated JD8 million to subsidise locally-produced cereals and will purchase locally produced grains at the price of JD200 per tonne of wheat and JD160 per tonne of barley. Also, the government will open the door for exportation of sheep in order to boost stockbreeders' income, he said.

In their speeches, opposition deputies attacked the government's plans and suggested that other sources be tapped to cover the budget deficit. Speaking on behalf of the Islamic Action Front bloc, Deputy Bassam Emoush said on Sunday: "The government should find other sources like increasing customs duty on luxury and non-essential goods as well as cigarettes and work permit fees for foreign labourers."

Accusing the government of succumbing to the dictates of the International Monetary Fund, Dr. Emoush said that bread price increase would result in the increase of the price of another wheat-based 100 items.

The government did not set a specific date to when its plan would be put in effect. But according to the prime minister, the government had made plans and consultations with all concerned authorities to ensure fair execution of its programme.

Clinton signs bill to punish non-U.S. companies investing in Iran and Libya

Move draws European protest and Iranian condemnation

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton signed into law Monday a bill punishing foreign companies that invest in the oil and gas industries of Iran and Libya, saying the step would deny those countries funds to support terrorism. "Terrorism has many faces to be sure," Mr. Clinton said at the Oval Office. "But Iran and Libya are two of the most dangerous supporters of terrorism in the world."

The Iran and Libya sanctions act penalises non-U.S. companies that invest more than \$40 million annually in the energy sector of the two countries. "This act will help to deny those countries the money they need to finance international terrorism," Mr. Clinton said in an address on foreign policy that followed the signing of the bill.

"It will increase the pressure on Libya to extradite the suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, he said.

Libya has refused to turn over two suspects in the 1988 bombing that killed 270 people despite a U.N.

embargo imposed in 1992 to turn up the pressure on Libya. "The United States' insistence on moves in contradiction with international trade regulations does not conform to the realities of the world," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said in Tehran.

"It will bring isolation to the United States. Clinton's decisions are doomed to fail."

"The world community is aware of Mr. Clinton's intentions to monopolise the world's energy

resources and markets and does not believe his false charges of terrorism" against Iran, Mr. Mohammadi added.

The sanctions law put the United States at loggerheads with its European trading partners who wasted no time in voicing their disapproval at the measure and warning of reprisals.

"We agree that there should be a common Western policy on Iran and Libya," the British Foreign Office said in a statement. "But we cannot accept

(Continued on page 7)

Israel could start Hebron pullout this month

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel will begin its long-delayed partial withdrawal from the West Bank city of Hebron at the end of this month, Israeli media reported Monday quoting government sources.

The Hebrew-language daily Yediot Aharonot and the Channel Two private television network quoted the sources as saying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would order the army redeployment from most of the Palestinian city to begin by the end of the month.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai insisted on Israel Radio that he was unaware of any decision on a pullback date, but did not rule out that the move could begin this month.

Once defence officials have drawn up a detailed

plan (for the redeployment) the issue will be discussed within the government and with the Palestinian (National) Authority (PNA)," he said.

Under the terms of Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreements, Israel was to turn four-fifths of Hebron over to the PNA in March, leaving a small army force to guard Jewish settlements where some 400 Israelis live amidst the city's 120,000 Palestinian residents.

The pullback from Hebron, the last major West Bank town still under Israeli control, was delayed by the previous government of Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres following a spate of militant bombings.

It is now considered a key test of Mr. Netanyahu's commitment to the Palestinian peace process.

Mr. Netanyahu has yet to announce his plans for Hebron, saying his government which came to power following May 29 elections was studying various options for the city.

During a visit to Amman on Monday, Mr. Netanyahu reiterated his commitment to fulfilling all Israel's obligations under the Palestinian autonomy agreement, but he said consultations within his government on Hebron were continuing.

Israeli radio and newspapers reported Monday that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat sent a letter to Mr. Netanyahu on Sunday calling for quick implementation of the Hebron handover agreement.

Mr. Arafat also expressed his concern over a government decision on Friday to lift restraints imposed by the previous Labour gov-

ernment on the expansion of Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories.

Sunday a headline Israeli minister proposed that the number of settlers living in Hebron be boosted 10-fold to 4,000.

"I am in favour of an increase in the number of Jews from 400 to 4,000," Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan told Israeli Television, adding: "The Hebron settlement must be strong and prosper in security."

His comments came after a visit by the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee to the West Bank town.

Army central regional commander Uzi Dayan was quoted as telling the deputies the army was preparing to redeploy from Hebron according to the

(Continued on page 3)

Cairo court upholds apostasy conviction against professor

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's highest appeals court on Monday upheld a ruling ordering a professor to divorce his wife on the basis that his writings insulted Islam, making him unfit to be married to a Muslim woman.

The case of Nasr Abu Zeid — which has been running on for more than two years — has been seen as a key challenge by Muslim fundamentalist lawyers who are trying to end secular law in Egypt and replace it with the Sharia, Islamic law. Mr. Abu Zeid and his wife, Ibtihal Younis, now are teaching in Leiden University in the Netherlands and could not be immediately reached for comment. Both have said in the past that they love each other and would not divorce.

The ruling was read by a clerk in the cassation court after being approved by Judge Mohammed Shara-biyya and four aides. Personal status cases, which deal with divorces and alimony, don't require a formal hearing.

The court rejected three appeals, by Mr. Abu Zeid, his lawyer and a state prosecutor.

The decision came from the "highest court which is very respected so we cannot comment on its decision," Mr. Abu Zeid's lawyer Abdul Moneim Al Sharqawi said in an interview.

"It is over," he added, emphasizing that Mr. Abu Zeid has no other legal options.

Islamic fundamentalists filed a lawsuit against Mr. Abu Zeid on grounds that his writings made him an apostate — one who has denounced his Muslim faith

— and therefore could not remain married to a Muslim woman.

Mr. Abu Zeid responded by saying that he was a good Muslim who exercised his rights of thinking just as Islam warranted. Mr. Abu Zeid, a professor of Arabic literature, said his writings were a scholarly analysis of the language of the Koran. In January 1994, a court threw the case out on the basis that the lawyers had no standing to bring suit. That was reversed by an appeals court in June 1995, which Mr. Abu Zeid in turn appealed.

The case was widely covered by the Egyptian press, which saw it as part of the challenge by Muslim fundamentalist lawyers to Egypt's secular intellectuals. The Muslim lawyers also have brought suit to ban books and movies.

Since the case came among a revolt by Islamic radicals against Egypt's secular rule, the government was eager to block the Muslim fundamentalist lawyers from gaining a victory.

The state joined Abu Zeid in appealing the ruling ordering divorce, and Egypt's chief religious official also said that Mr. Abu Zeid could not be ordered to divorce as an apostate if he still affirmed he was a Muslim.

In May 1996, the government adopted a law that limited the use of Egyptian courts to ban books and films. It was expected to affect the Mr. Abu Zeid case since it refuted the idea that any Muslim could file suit if he felt Islam was being insulted.

It was not immediately known if the cassation court considered this law.

Taha Abdul Dayem, a fundamentalist lawyer who came to hear the decision but was not involved in the case, said that if Mr. Abu Zeid now continued living with his wife it would be viewed as adultery. He conceded, however, that the state had no way to enforce the ruling.

"The court's decision will shut up the people who use freedom of expression and media to attack Islam," Mr. Abdul Dayem said. "It protected Islam."

The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation called for President Hosni Mubarak to intervene against the verdict.

"We call on President Mubarak to intervene immediately ... not only to protect Professor Abu Zeid but to defend the whole of Egyptian society," the group secretary general, Mohammad Gueneidi, said.

He said the ruling was "a strong show of support for the extremists," at a time when the government has been fighting Islamic militants.

"We are in a state of shock and we can find no plausible explanation for this verdict which sets a precedent," he said. "Any one of us could wake up one morning to find that a court has ordered us to be separated from our spouse."

Apart from the Abu Zeid case, Islamic fundamentalists have taken legal action against several leading writers, intellectuals and film makers in Egypt on charges of offending Islam.



PALESTINIAN WOMEN DEMONSTRATE FOR PRISONERS: Palestinian women on Monday demonstrate for the release of relatives held in Israeli jails for security reasons. Two Palestinian prisoners broke out of an Israeli jail on Sunday while in the self-rule areas of the West Bank last week one Palestinian prisoner was beaten to death in prison and an Arab demonstrator was shot dead in a clash with Palestinian police outside a local jail (Reuters photo)

Erbakan's Iran visit may hurt Turkish-U.S. ties

ANKARA (AFP) — A planned visit by Turkey's new Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan to Iran this weekend may strain Turkish-U.S. relations, as Washington considers new measures against Tehran to punish its alleged support for terrorism.

Mr. Erbakan will pay his first official visit to Iran since taking up his post in late June, his office announced Monday.

Flying to Tehran Saturday, Mr. Erbakan will meet Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and other top officials.

On becoming premier in late June, Mr. Erbakan said one of his main priorities would be to improve political and economic ties with fellow Muslim countries, including Iran.

In Tehran, he is expected to try to forge a deal for Iranian

natural gas for Turkey.

However, Mr. Erbakan's visit comes at a time of rising tensions between Washington and Tehran, the United States accusing Iran of involvement in a massive truck bomb which killed 19 U.S. airmen and wounded hundreds of others at a U.S. base in Saudi Arabia.

Washington is also braced to penalize countries doing business with Iran.

Analysts here said Mr. Erbakan's visit would be hailed by Iran as diplomatic support and could hurt ties between Ankara and Washington, Turkey's closest ally in the NATO alliance.

Other analysts said that at the very least Ankara could expect strong criticism by the United States of the planned visit. "The United States will not forget Erbakan's Iran visit," one analyst said.

The new Islamist prime

minister's move to visit Tehran comes one week after he defused a potential crisis with the United States.

Mr. Erbakan persuaded reluctant Islamist deputies from his Welfare Party to extend the mandate in Turkey of a U.S.-led multinational force protecting Kurds in northern Iraq from Baghdad.

"His efforts to extend the mandate of Operation Provide Comfort made Washington grateful, but with his Iran visit Mr. Erbakan is set to lose the U.S. credit he won last week," one analyst said.

Operation Provide Comfort was set up in the wake of the Gulf war in 1991 to protect Kurds from attacks by troops loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Under the operation U.S., French and British aircraft based in Turkish bases stage surveillance missions over northern Iraq.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. embassy steps up security in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The U.S. embassy in Kuwait stepped up its security on Monday as it built a new perimeter fence of concrete blocks outside the main wall. The blocks are set some 30 metres away from the wall of the embassy building, an AFP correspondent said. Press reports said work on the fence began on Sunday. U.S. embassy officials were not available for comment. Although a spokesperson has said that the embassy had heard of no threats received by U.S. interests in Kuwait, Extra security measures have been introduced in Kuwait at places where U.S. citizens are concentrated. These include extending the perimeter fence of camp Doha where several hundred U.S. military personnel are stationed. The measures were introduced after the bombing of a U.S. military dormitory at King Abdul Aziz air base in Khobar, eastern Saudi Arabia on June 25, that killed 19 U.S. airmen and left hundreds wounded. The U.S. embassy has advised American citizens in Kuwait to be vigilant of their personal security and surroundings since the Khobar bombing.

Kuwait finds no trace of attackers

KUWAIT (R) — Eleven men beat up a Texaco official and a security guard at a beach used by Texaco staff in the Kuwait-Saudi neutral zone last May, Kuwaiti authorities said on Monday. They said they were not able to track down the assailants. Interior Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, giving details of the unusual attack in the sensitive oil-producing area, said in a statement in the daily Arab Times newspaper the May 23 incident had been registered as a misdemeanour. He said no action could be taken because the attackers had not been identified. The minister was responding to a written parliamentary question about the incident by opposition lawmaker Abdullah Al Nibari, who claimed the attackers carried guns and were led by a man belonging to what he called an influential Kuwaiti family. Mr. Nibari added the Texaco official was a Saudi national who had to be treated in a hospital intensive care unit. Sheikh Ali said the incident occurred after the group of 11 arrived at the beach in boats and began quarrelling with the Texaco official. The group fled in boats when Kuwaiti police arrived. He made no mention of either victims' nationality. The beach, near Saudi Arabian Texaco's base at Mina Al-Zour, is in the Kuwaiti-administered portion of the partitioned neutral zone and is used by Texaco staff and their families.

6 thieves' fingers chopped off in Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Six thieves who were repeat offenders had their fingers amputated here on Monday in the first such punishment meted out under Iran's new Islamic penal code, a newspaper reported. The sentence was carried out in the courtyard of a detective bureau in the capital in the presence of several clergymen and government officials, Kayhan daily said. A number of convicted thieves were brought from prison to witness the amputations so they would "learn a lesson." The new law, which went into effect on July 9, was passed by the parliament. The previous version of Islamic law was experimental. Four of the amputees will be freed and the other two will remain in prison, Tehran police chief Brigadier General Reza Abolfathi said. Iranian state prosecutor Aytollah Morteza Moghaddai said last week that recidivist thieves would have their fingers and toes amputated and would also risk the death penalty under the new penal code. The tough new sentences are aimed at halting a crime wave in the Islamic republic, he said.

Maid's recruiters to be charged

MANILA (AFP) — Filipino employment agents who faked a teenage maid's passport so she could work in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where she was nearly executed could be charged with child abuse, Justice Secretary Teofisto Guingona said Monday. The 17-year-old maid, Sarah Balabagan, returned to Manila last week after serving a two-year jail term, having won a presidential reprieve last year after an Islamic court initially sentenced her to die by firing squad for killing her Arab employer. Child abuse charges could be added to a case of illegal recruitment already lodged by state prosecutors against the four recruiters, Mr. Guingona told reporters. Three of the four, who are at large, are her own relatives. Ms. Balabagan, a grade-school dropout, was only 14 when she applied and was sent to the UAE to work as a maid. The government says the job placement agency which sent her abroad had forged her travel papers, passing her off as a 28-year-old adult. The Philippines in 1992 passed a law making child abuse a criminal offence, imposing tough punishment of up to life imprisonment on those who sexually molest minors and those who force children to work, among others.

Protest mounts over Saudi-financed Oxford business college

LONDON (AFP) — A burgeoning protest mounted Monday against Oxford University's plans to build a business college on an inner city green area with a huge donation from a Saudi millionaire and purported arms middleman.

Petitions bearing the names of some 1,000 Oxford employees and researchers were being handed to the university opposing the acceptance of 20 million sterling pounds (\$30 million) from Syrian-born financier Wafiq Said.

"His money is tainted," said Mike Wooden, a psychology lecturer at Oxford's Balliol College and an Oxford city councillor for the Green Party.

"I wouldn't go so far as to call it blood money, but I don't feel comfortable with the university accepting it," he said.

"My view is that the universi-

ty is selling its good name to someone who has used his wealth and power and influence to facilitate arms deals with a country with a repressive regime," said Mr. Wooden.

Mr. Said, who reportedly has close ties to the Saudi royal family and to former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, figured prominently in 1992 House of Commons committee testimony on the Iraqi "super-gun" scandal.

At the time he was identified as the international "fixer" who helped British Aerospace secure the 20 billion sterling pounds (\$30 billion) Al Yamamah arms deal signed under Mrs. Thatcher's term.

Mr. Said has denied any direct part in the arms trade, having once declared he never sold so much as a pen knife, but his behind-the-scenes involvement

has been alluded to in Commons testimony and widely reported in the British press.

Under the terms of his donation to Oxford, announced last month, the university would match his money with 20 million sterling pounds of its own.

It also agreed to his demands to build the college on a series of leafy athletic fields in the centre of Oxford, and to name it after him — the Said Business School.

The strongest objection is over the loss of inner city green space. The athletic facility, representing one of the last sizeable green areas left in central Oxford, is now reserved for the use of non-academic staff.

Mr. Wooden said residents in the area were informally polled and almost unanimously objected to the plan for a business college, which the university says

would compete with the most prestigious in the world in granting masters and doctoral degrees in business administration.

Mr. Said has firmly rejected a university proposal to use his donation to extend an existing business school at Templeton College on the outskirts of the city.

Mr. Said, whose son graduated from Balliol College last month, wants the business college "at the heart of the city and the university," said an Oxford spokesman.

"He is making the donation and the university will recognise that in a number of ways," he said. "The building is going to be named after him, and he will be represented on a trust that will run the new business school."

Stef Spencer, chairwoman of

the Oxford Council Planning Committee, said the committee had already found the site "unacceptable" on the green space argument.

"The fact that someone offers to donate 20 million sterling pounds does not strike me as an exceptional circumstance," she said.

Mr. Wooden said students and staff also object on the grounds that business does not fall under the traditional areas of study at Oxford and feel the 20 million sterling pounds the university must contribute would be better spent on such things as libraries and laboratories.

The university's plans for the new school must be approved by a board, or "parliament," of its own academics who meet in November.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 — Iris — The Happy Professor
15:15 — Captain Planet
15:45 — Hot Shots (Sports)
16:00 — Bob Morrison Show
16:30 — Comedy — ALF
17:00 — French Programmes
19:30 — News Headlines
19:35 — Comedy — Blossom
20:00 Valley of the Kings (Documentary)
20:30 Talk Show — Encounter
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 — News in English
22:15 — Hawaii 5-0
23:45 — Comedy — My Two Wives

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 — Fajr
05:49 — (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 — Dhuhr
16:22 — Asr
19:34 — Maghreb
21:01 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457.
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman 21/35
Aqaba 27/41
Deserts 20/37

Jordan Valley

25/40
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh 819220
Dr. Rihab Sukkar 856457
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shukbah 752405
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 790104
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rabah Al Bourini 990312
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Dept 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade

617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Akileh Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity

642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shamsani 607071
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 66612637
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Minhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 77511126
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modera Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:00 — Damascus (RJ)
08:15 — Sana'a (RJ)

10:15

Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
10:20 — Beirut (RJ)
10:35 — Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:50 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:05 — New York (RJ)
17:20 — Cairo (RJ)
17:30 — London (RJ)
17:40 — Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
02:50 — Madrid (RJ)
Other Flights
05:40 — London (BA)
09:15 — Cairo (MS)
13:40 — Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 — Riyadh (SV)
14:00 — Munich (YP)
16:00 — Rome (AZ)
16:30 — Dubai (EK)
19:35 — Amsterdam (KL)
20:20 — London (BA)
20:20 — Aden (IY)
21:10 — Beirut (ME)
22:00 — Tel Aviv (LY)
00:55 — Bucharest (RO)
03:00 — Kuwait (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:50 — Aqaba (RW)
19:45 — Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35 — Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 — Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal,

Toronto (RJ)

13:00 — Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 — Paris (RJ)
13:15 — Cairo (RJ)
14:05 — London (RJ)
14:55 — Madrid (RJ)
21:10 — Larnaca (RJ)
21:45 — Damascus (RJ)
21:45 — Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:20 — Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
01:30 — Jeddah (RJ)

Other Flights

08:45 — Beirut (ME)
09:15 — London (BA)
10:15 — Cairo (MS)
14:30 — Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Muscat (GF)
15:30 — Riyadh (SV)
15:45 — Munich (YP)
17:00 — Rome (AZ)
17:30 — Dubai (EK)
20:45 — Kuwait (KL)
21:20 — Aden (IY)
23:10 — Tel Aviv (LY)
01:55 — Bucharest (RO)
04:00 — Amsterdam (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
10:00 Aqaba (Marka Airport (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (Marka Airport proceeding to QAIA) (RW)
HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every

Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 600/600
Banana (mukhammar) 520/520
Banana (imported) 830/600
Cabbage 400/300
Carrot 170/90
Cauliflower 320/220
Cucumber (large) 200/120
Cucumber (small) 400/250
Eggplant 220/140
Garlic 650/400
Grapes 430/260
Lemon 680/400
Marrow (large) 250/150
Marrow (small) 420/260
Mulukhiyah 120/80
Onion (dry) 150/80
Okra 800/500
Pea 480/300
Pear 780/500
Peach 750/500
Pepper (hot) 300/200
Pepper (sweet) 370/250
Potato 330/220
String Bean 780/500
Sweet melon 270/150
Tomato 120/70
Water melon 210/150

Home

Jordan. PNA

Number the Gulf

WHA

Children's play "The Boy"

Men-of-letters and Historians Foundation, Jabal Amman

Science for Health exhibition

Graphic works by Eman Ch

Photo exhibition by Hand A

Israel could star

Continued from page 1

CITY (AFP) — The security of the city of Amman has been stepped up in the wake of a recent attack on a hotel. The Jordanian army has increased its presence in the city and has set up a security perimeter around the hotel. The attack on the hotel was carried out by a group of men who were armed with rifles and handguns. The attack resulted in the death of one man and the injury of several others. The Jordanian government has expressed its condemnation of the attack and has vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice.

finds no trace of attacker

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
The Jordanian army has conducted a search for the attacker of the hotel in Amman. The search has been carried out in the area surrounding the hotel and in the surrounding districts. The army has not yet found any trace of the attacker. The Jordanian government has expressed its disappointment at the failure of the search and has vowed to continue the search until the attacker is found.

fingers chopped off in

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
A man has been arrested in Amman after being found with severed fingers. The man was found in a public place and the severed fingers were found next to him. The Jordanian police have arrested the man and are conducting an investigation into the case. The man has been charged with the crime of mutilation and is being held in custody.

recruiters to be charged

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
The Jordanian government has announced that it will charge recruiters who have been found to be recruiting for the army. The government has said that it will take action against anyone who is found to be recruiting for the army without the proper authorization. The government has said that it will also take action against anyone who is found to be recruiting for the army in a way that is contrary to the law.

MARKET

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
The Jordanian market has seen a decline in prices for some goods. The prices of some goods have fallen by as much as 10 per cent. The Jordanian government has said that it is not sure why the prices have fallen and has said that it will continue to monitor the market.

Home News

Jordan, PNA sign agriculture deal

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Monday signed an accord allowing Jordan to export 14 different agricultural products to the Palestinian self-rule areas and import 18 different items for which there is demand in the Jordanian market.

Some of these commodities can be imported or exported year round while others have specific dates of trade depending on the agricultural seasons.

Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat, who signed for Jordan, said that the Kingdom "was keen on bolstering brotherly ties with the Palestinians and offering them every kind of support, including expertise in agriculture."

The minister pledged measures to put into action the

Jordanian-Israeli agricultural agreement for the purpose of facilitating the transport of goods between Jordan and the Palestinian areas.

Palestinian Minister of Agriculture Abdul Jawad Saleh, who signed the deal for the Palestinian side, praised the "strong brotherly ties between Jordan and Palestine."

Both sides have agreed on forming joint committees to discuss procedural matters to implement the accord, he said.

Under the agreement, Jordan can export melon, peach, garlic, apple, onion, potato, eggs, frozen poultry, sheep, tree saplings, cooking fat, white cheese, pasteurised milk, wool and solidified yoghurt to the Palestinians.

Jordan will import from

the Palestinian territories guava, dates, lemon, orange, grapefruit, grapes, banana, green almond, honey, fresh fish, sweet potato, tree saplings, cactus, citrus fruits, potato, and onion.

PNA official to start visit

Meanwhile, it was announced Monday that Palestinian Minister of Transport Ibrahim Qawasmeh will arrive here Tuesday for a four-day visit during which he will hold talks with Transport Minister Naser Lawzi.

He will also meet the directors of the Civil Aviation Authority, Royal Jordanian and the Department of Meteorology.

Number of visitors from the Gulf states increases

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The number of visitors to the Kingdom from the Gulf states this summer increased by 8.65 per cent over the same period last year, with the highest number of visitors coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Minister of Tourism Saleh Irsheidat said Monday.

He said about 237,508 people arrived in the Kingdom from Saudi Arabia while 26,704 came from Kuwait. These numbers include Jordanians who work in these countries. Other visitors came from Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar, said Dr. Irsheidat, who attributed the increase in the number of visitors to the improvement in relations between the Kingdom and the Gulf states and

the "stability, security and abundance of tourist attractions in the Kingdom."

The minister referred to visits to the Gulf states by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti in the past few months, saying they were instrumental in achieving this improvement in relations.

"The great facilities offered to visitors to Jordan have encouraged visitors to come here," Dr. Irsheidat said he expected the number of visitors to the country this year to exceed that of last year which hit the one million mark for the first time in the history of the Kingdom.

Irsheidat meets EDF president

Dr. Irsheidat conferred with Edmond Alphandery, president of Elec-

tricity de France (EDF), who Sunday presented to Her Majesty Queen Noor 17 Umayyad bronze figurines that were uncovered by the excavations of the French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem near Mafraq and underwent restoration in France.

Dr. Irsheidat said that the "valuable collection which was discovered in 1986 will be added to the Kingdom's treasure of antiquities at Jordan's museums."

EDF is currently involved in researching means of diminishing the effects of weathering on Petra's rock-cut facades as well as organising and financing the exhibition "Jordan Antiquities and Science" which will be held next year at the Institute of the Arab World in Paris before moving to Rome.

Gas talks with Egypt in advanced stage Minister doubts CHA ability to build Aqaba refinery on basis of CBJ report

By Mahmoud Mashargah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Negotiations with Egypt over gas imports for Jordan have reached an advanced stage and are heading in the right direction, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas said Monday.

Dr. Dabbas told a seminar, organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association, that the government has adopted plans for increasing dependence on natural gas to gradually replace fuel oil in industry in addition to its use in the generation of electric power. He said that the next step will be supplying homes with natural gas through pipes.

The minister expected increases in general energy consumption to reach six per cent and electric power consumption to rise by 11 per cent annually, stressing that this means that the

country requires constant investments in the energy sector at the rate of JD150 million annually.

Government expenditure on energy-related projects since 1993 is expected to reach JD600 million by the end of the century, with JD 500 million to be spent on electric power generation, distribution and transformer stations as well as the linkage of the country's power grids with those of the neighbouring Arab countries, said the minister.

He said JD 40 million will be used to finance the remainder of an electrification project covering 600 villages in the rural regions of Jordan.

The minister noted that at present 99.5 per cent of the Jordanian people are supplied by electricity.

He said that the electrification project is bound to help develop the rural regions, stop migrations from rural to urban areas, encourage investment in



Hashem Dabbas

He said Jordan "was doing all it can in order to cut on the oil imports bill by exploiting its natural gas fields and tapping the oil shale deposits while at the same time contracting a number of oil companies to prospect for oil and gas in Jordan."

The minister noted that Jordan had reached a tentative agreement with the Corporate Holdings of America (CHA) to set up and operate a refinery at Aqaba for exporting oil products. Under the agreement, the estimated \$2.3 billion plant should be able to produce 250,000 barrels a day.

The government has demanded a \$12 million financial guarantee which was duly submitted through American Firm Financial Resources but the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) rejected the guarantee on the ground that CHA is not yet registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade

and the company has failed to submit sufficient data stating its financial position.

Furthermore, the CBJ said that CHA will have a \$700 million capital, 45 per cent of which will be covered through shares to be bought by the Jordanian public.

"I feel there is a problem and I feel there is little hope that CHA can ever execute the project," added the minister.

Referring to the projected facilities for storing liquefied Qatari gas in Aqaba as undertaken by the American Enron firm at the cost of \$300 million, Dr. Dabbas said that this scheme is expected to face a setback because negotiations with the Israelis who have agreed to set up an American-Jordanian company to help carry out the project are still going on, adding that the delay was due to the Israeli elections.

New prices of dairy products to be set in 48 hours

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Supply will within 48 hours announce the new prices of fresh milk, yoghurt and other commodities after concluding consultations "with the various concerned parties," Minister of Supply Munir Sobar said Monday.

He made the announcement at a meeting with representatives of cattle and livestock breeders and dairies to discuss the impact of increases in prices of animal feed on their products as declared by the Ministry of Supply last week.

Mr. Sobar told the Jordan Times after the meet-

ing that he does not expect milk prices to increase by more than 10 to 15 per cent over the present rates. But dairy producers have already raised the price of milk by about 30 per cent. The hiking of the price came immediately after the government lifted animal feed subsidies.

The lifting of subsidies led to an increase in the price of barley from JD 85 to JD 120 per tonne, bran from JD 52.5 to JD 100, corn from JD 116 to JD 160 and soya from JD 210 to JD 270, prompting the dairies to hike prices.

Mr. Sobar told the Jordan Times that poultry prices have been increased by 16.7 per cent, and table eggs by 10 to 12 per cent due to the lifting

of subsidy on the animal feed.

Saying that the increases in the price are equivalent to the increase in the rise of animal feed, Mr. Sobar said a kilo of poultry will now sell for JD1.05, up from JD 0.90 and a 30 egg pack will sell for JD1.50 instead of JD 1.35.

Ahmad Deiri, president of the Jordanian Union of Cattle Breeders, which groups 13 societies, told the Jordan Times that the new animal feed prices are 60 per cent higher than the previous price of JD 102.

He said that the breeders have requested from the minister to hike milk prices to 300 fils so as to secure a reasonable profit, adding that agreement was reached with the

minister on announcing the new prices formally in the coming two days.

Representatives of the dairy companies sent the minister a memorandum demanding that the increases in the prices of milk and its products be increased in view of the increases in the other production inputs like electricity and water as well as spare parts of their machinery and the workers wages and the packaging cost.

In remarks at the meeting, Mr. Sobar said the government "was keen on doing justice to all concerned parties and therefore it is consulting with the producers in order to reach an acceptable set of price rates."

Mr. Sobar said the government plans to liberalise trade and float the prices of all commodities that have been priced by the ministry within a year.

But the government will first secure the endorsement of a law on preventing monopoly, which will be presented to the Lower House of Parliament in its next ordinary session, said the minister.

The Ministry of Supply has opened the door for merchants to import rice, wheat and sugar. It previously had a monopoly over importing these items.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- Chinese film "Ju Dou" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.
- Children's film "The Borrowers" (Part I) at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

PLAY

- Children's play "Shabroun and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m.

LECTURE

- "Men of Letters and History" by Dr. Radwa Ashour at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- "Science for Health" exhibition at the British Council, until Aug. 17.
- Art and cultural exhibition by Iranian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 7.
- Book exhibition by Hassan Abu Ghassim at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 9.
- Abstract (plastic) art by Hussein Da'seh and Nader Samarah on Jerusalem at the Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uttheina (Tel. 826932), until Aug. 15.
- Graphic works by Eman Odeh at the Phoenix Art Gallery (Tel. 695294), until Aug. 15.
- Photo exhibition by Hani Hourani entitled "People and Places" at Baladine Art Gallery (Tel. 687598), until Aug. 15.

Israel could start Hebron pullout this month

(Continued from page 1)

same plan drawn up between the Labour government and the PNA.

Yossi Sarid, a member of the parliamentary delegation from the left-wing Meretz Party, said after talks with Mr. Dayan that "nothing has changed" in the army's withdrawal project despite Mr. Netanyahu's claim to be considering a variety of redeployment options.

While accepting his predecessor's commitments in principle, Mr. Netanyahu has argued that some deviations are legitimate because the Palestinians were also not honouring all their pledges to Israel, such as

handing over captured militants.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he would in any case significantly renegotiate the details of the withdrawal plan, which envisaged Israeli troops remaining only in a small enclave where the settlers live.

But Israel's Channel 2 TV, citing anonymous government sources, said Mr. Netanyahu has now decided to seek only minor changes. The report said the issue

would be discussed next week between Mr. Arafat and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and the government would then formally decide on a pullout which could begin before the end of August.

Asked for confirmation, Netanyahu spokesman Shai Bazak said only: "No decision has been made. There is no schedule."

Earlier Sunday, a group of Israeli Knesset members toured Hebron.

**Save water!
Every drop counts...**

Jordanian, Israeli children 'camp for peace'

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

THE JORDAN VALLEY — More than 100 Israeli and Jordanian children will spend a week camping at the Amman National Park in a gesture aimed at "promoting peace between the two countries," organisers said Monday.

"This is the fruit of peace which (His Majesty) King Hussein provided by paving the way for youths from both sides to get to know each other," said Khaldoun Abu Nowar, technical manager at the Trade Link Institute, who is organising the event.

Mr. Abu Nowar told the Jordan Times that intensive contacts between Jordanian schools and schools in Israel made this event possible.

Seventy-two supervisors and girl guides and boy scouts, who were invited by Sharif Hussein Ben Ghazi, entered the Kingdom through the Sheikh Hussein bridge in the Jordan Valley Monday at noon to attend the First Jordan-Israel scout's camp-peace.

"I love peace and because of peace I decided to participate in this camp, and I am really excited about it," Rana Hussein, an Arab-Israeli participant said.

But for Shirley Kenny, who lives in Galilee, who spent most of her childhood with Arab-Israelis, peace was not the only reason why she decided to



Jordanian and Israeli children walk towards the buses which later in the day carried them to the Amman National Park after the Israeli boy scouts and girl guides entered the Kingdom through the Sheikh Hussein Bridge (Photo by Rana Hussein)

attend the camp.

"We live together with Arab-Israelis, but we do not have the time to talk with each other, and this is a good opportunity to get to know them more," Ms. Kenny told the Jordan Times.

"I always think that peace is good, and I am always with peace," she added.

One scout said he pur-

ticipated in this camp because he wanted a chance to see the world and "because peace is better than war."

"I always wanted to see other countries and meet new people, and visiting Jordan and participating in this camp is the beginning of my dreams," Ali Khawaled said.

Carol Kildani, one of 22 Jordanian students who

received the Israeli delegation, said this event is a chance for her to meet "the other side."

"Peace is a beautiful thing because it allows us to meet people who live in Israel, and to get to know how they live and because no one is being killed," the 12-year-old said.

During their one-week stay, the children will visit entertainment parks,

tourist sites, museums, the Civil Defence Department, and will do voluntary work in cleaning parks and natural reserves.

"We are planning to have this camp activity every year, and next year the camp will be held in Israel," said Lo'el Mubaidin of the Trade Link Institute.

Chechen rebel leader says Russia makes new air strikes

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev accused Russian forces Monday of killing seven people in "cynical" air strikes as attempts to arrange new peace talks faltered.

Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Yandarbiyev as saying Russian forces had launched air and artillery attacks in southern and southeastern Chechnya in the previous 24 hours, despite the arrival of a delegation from Moscow seeking negotiations.

Low-level talks resumed on arranging a prisoner exchange but hopes of arranging fully-fledged peace talks seemed slim.

"Before and during the trip by the members of the State Commission on Chechnya, air and artillery attacks have continued in southern and southeastern regions of Chechnya," Mr. Yandarbiyev told Interfax in a radio conversation.

"According to preliminary data, seven people were killed and more than 10 were hurt," he said.

Interfax said Mr. Yandarbiyev had described the attacks as "cynical" and vowed to do everything possible "for the defence of the civilian population".

The death toll could not be independently confirmed. The rebels have in the past exaggerated casualties among civilians and Russian troops, just as the Russians have over-estimated rebel casualties in battles.

There was no news of the fate of two foreign aid workers, a Briton and a Frenchman, kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on July 27. The Paris-based group International Action Against Hunger, which employs them, says it has received no ransom demand.

Fighting has worsened since Russian President Boris Yeltsin was re-elected on July 3, with each side blaming the other for the end of a lull in the almost 20-month-old conflict.

More than 30,000 people have been killed since Mr. Yeltsin sent troops to try to crush the southern region's independence drive.

Interfax said Doku Zavgayev, head of the pro-Moscow authorities in Chechnya, had offered rebels the chance of posts in the regional government including prime minister if they lay down their arms.

But the rebels say Mr. Zavgayev is Moscow's puppet and has no support in Chechnya. They have repeatedly refused to do business with him.

A source in Russia's military command in the Chechen capital Grozny told Interfax the rebels were strengthening their positions in the southern region of Shatoi and had attacked Russian forces in Orekhovo and Katyr-Yurt in the west. But the rebels accused the

Russians of continuing an onslaught on what Moscow says are guerrilla bases.

Interfax quoted rebel spokesman Movladi Udugov Sunday as saying dozens of people were killed in attacks Saturday night on a number of villages. The report could not be confirmed.

Talks, mediated by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), resumed in Grozny to try to arrange a prisoner exchange.

But Tim Guldemann, head of the OSCE mission, told TASS there was still no agreement to hold high-level peace talks.

A Russian delegation headed by Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov arrived in the mountainous southern region Saturday but has had no direct contact with Mr. Yandarbiyev.



Members of the Committee Against the Construction of Maki's Nuclear Plant shout banzai cheers to celebrate an overwhelming vote Sunday in Japan's first referendum against the construction of a nuclear power plant only ten kilometres from their town centre (Reuters photo)

Japan says nuclear policy unchanged by 'no' vote

TOKYO (R) — A resounding defeat in a public vote on a nuclear power plant over the weekend will not alter Japan's heavy reliance on atomic power for electricity, politicians and industry officials said Monday.

"In the absence of substitutes, we must consider nuclear power the central part of our future energy source," Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters Monday.

His remarks followed a Sunday referendum in Maki, a small farming town on the Sea of Japan, in which 60 per cent of those voting said they were against the plant proposed 27 years ago by Tohoku Electric Power Co.

The vote was a serious setback to Japan's energy policy, which has for decades relied on nuclear power to reduce the heavy thirst for imported oil. It also leaves in doubt the government's ambitious programme to increase nuclear power production by 70 per cent within the next 15 years.

Japan currently has 49 commercial nuclear power generators, accounting roughly for one-third of its electricity production.

Even with that high level of nuclear power produc-

tion, Japan is the world's second-largest importer of oil, after the United States.

But after years of little public opposition, Hashimoto conceded his government has a potential public relations crisis on its hands.

"We need to seriously tackle the issue of ensuring safety and gain public understanding," he said.

Public confidence in nuclear plants took a dip last year when a massive leak of coolant forced the emergency shutdown of an experimental nuclear reactor.

The Sunday vote allows Maki Mayor Takaaki Sasaguchi to block the sale of town land that is needed by the plant, effectively blocking construction.

Mr. Sasaguchi was elected in January on a campaign platform to carry out the referendum to decide whether to allow the construction of the plant, an issue that has sharply divided the town of 30,000 people.

He also said the result will remain effective even after the town elects a new mayor.

"The residents' decision should be honoured until the town has the next generation of voters," he said.

However, Yoshiaki Yashima, president of Tohoku Electric, said in a news con-

ference Sunday the company does not consider the result of the referendum as the last word and said it would not give up its plan.

He also said he was apprehensive that important national policies such as a long-term energy policy are influenced by local referendums.

The government's top spokesman warned that if Japanese voters start rejecting nuclear power, alternatives must be found.

"If the Japanese people are going to say 'no' to the setting up of nuclear power plants amid high demand for electric power, they must be willing to go as far as cutting down on their electric power consumption," said government spokesman Seiroku Kajiyama.

The referendum drive has taken root elsewhere, with four other local governments having laws in place to hold referendums on planned plants.

A citizens' group in Hamakita, a small town in central Japan, Monday submitted a petition to authorities to carry out a referendum on Chubu Electric Power Co's plan to build a fifth nuclear generator at its nearby plant on the Pacific coast.

Historic Canadian cold war conference home burns

PUGWASH, Nova Scotia (R) — The Canadian home that was the venue for the early Pugwash conferences during the height of the cold war sustained major damage after a fire Sunday, local officials said.

The Cyrus Eaton Home, where intellectuals from both sides of the iron curtain gathered to discuss peace in the 1950s and 1960s, was still standing after the blaze but sustained heavy smoke damage, said Robert Tuttle, a spokesman for the Pugwash Fire Department. Mr. Tuttle said he believed the 15-room estate house, which overlooks the harbour at Pugwash, about 160 kilometres north of Halifax, was built around the turn of the century. No injuries were reported. The cause of the blaze and a dollar value of the damage were not immediately known.

Bungling gunman faces the noose

SINGAPORE (AFP) — A bungling gunman who was caught in his first attempt at robbery, stole a bag of trash in his second and slept through a police ambush faces the hangman's noose in Singapore, it was reported Monday.

Lim Chwee Soon, 29, is the first man to be convicted under an amended law which makes the death penalty mandatory for anyone who uses a gun, without the prosecution needing to prove intention to cause hurt, the Straits Times said.

Armed with an axe, Mr. Lim first tried to rob a goldsmith's shop in June last year and was arrested after he was caught by employees who hit him on the head with a chair, the newspaper said. He jumped bail, bought a pair of pistols, and along with his brother and another accomplice held up a money-changer at gunpoint in October. The trio escaped with a bag of garbage their victim had taken out. But undaunted, the three men returned to the goldsmith's shop the following day and Mr. Lim fired seven shots, three of which hit a manager who survived, the Straits Times said. He escaped to Malaysia, but was tracked down in less than 36 hours by the Organised Crime Branch of Singapore Police which asked Malaysian Police to arrest him.

Mr. Lim was armed with two pistols and about 100 rounds of ammunition when the police came calling, but did not fire a single shot because he was sound asleep. Mr. Lim's lawyers told the High Court that as a boy he had a passion for toy guns which he never outgrew. The court rejected his defence of accidental shooting and insanity and in late July sentenced him to hang.

Other bankers and officials contacted by the Jordan Times said that ABI was under the supervision of the Central Bank and it was only a matter of time before the security authority approves takeover of ABI by another bank.

Market sources expect ABI to be turned into an Islamic bank to break the monopoly of the Jordan Islamic Bank on the banking sector.

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S. Korean Red Cross urges N. Korea to return writer

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean Red Cross Monday urged North Korea to repatriate a southern novelist detained in the Communist country for violating its borders.

"I hope your side will cooperate to return Kim Yong to his family on humanitarian grounds as soon as possible," South Korean Red Cross President Kang Young-Hoon said in a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart, Lee Song-Ho.

Pyeongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) monitored in Tokyo said the North had detained a South Korean who identified himself as a novelist for violating its northern frontier.

KCNA said Kim Yong was apprehended by an agency of the DPRK at dawn on July 31 when he illegally violated its northern frontier.

KCNA said Mr. Kim was a novelist belonging to South Korea's National Association of Writers and a lecturer in the city of Pusan. He was under investigation, KCNA added.

Mr. Kang said in the message that Mr. Kim, travelling with his father and brother in China, went missing on July 30.

"Kim was believed to have crossed the border inadvertently as he was very drunk at the time," he said.

South Korean government officials said earlier they could not rule out the possibility Kim was kidnapped as he disappeared after drinking in a North Korean-run restaurant in China.

North Korea Monday denied holding secret inter-Korean talks as U.S. and South Korean officials met over how to coax the Communist nation to the peace table.

"Such negotiations have never been and are not held there," said a spokesman for the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, a North Korean agency handling inter-Korean affairs.

The denial, carried by KCNA, followed news report here that secret talks had been held in Beijing between special envoys from the two Koreas since May.

"It is quite contrary to the fact and a false report," the North Korean spokesman said.

In Seoul, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman held talks with senior South Korean officials on four-way peace talks proposed in May by U.S. and South Korean leaders.

rod-straight Chun aimed a barb at Mr. Kim's drive to correct "historic" wrongs.

"This case tries to judge legitimacy of past governments under the slogan of straightening history," he said. "Political retaliation in the form of trial... must end with me."

Mr. Roh apologised for causing controversy but said he did his best in his time when "wrong practices" were commonplace. "History could be assessed but could not be judged," he added.

Mr. Roh was arrested last November on bribery charges after confessing that he amassed a slush fund of more than \$600 million from business tycoons during his presidential term. He was additionally charged with treason and sedition later.

Mr. Chun was arrested the following month on charges of masterminding the December 1979 coup. He was also charged with sedition for the May 1980 army massacre and bribery for accepting hundreds of millions of dollars from businessmen.

The two former presidents denied the mutiny and treason charges, saying their actions were taken to avoid chaos that could have resulted in a North Korean invasion.

They also denied graft charges, saying the money they took from businessmen was only "political donations."



South Korean students, surrounded by riot police, chant "Death to Chun Doo-Hwan" as they sit near the entrance to the courthouse where former presidents Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo are on trial for sedition in Seoul Monday (Reuters photo).

Seoul prosecutors ask death for Chun

SEOUL (R) — South Korean prosecutors asked a Seoul criminal court Monday to sentence former President Chun Doo-Hwan to death on charges of sedition, treason and bribery.

Senior prosecutor Kim Sang-Hee said Mr. Chun, accused of masterminding a 1979 coup and a 1980 army massacre in the southern city of Kwangju, should be given the maximum penalty.

He also asked the court to sentence Mr. Chun's successor Mr. Roh Tae-Woo, who faces the same charges, to life in prison.

Mr. Roh is accused of playing a leading role in the coup and the massacre, which left 200 dead by official count when troops fired on pro-democracy demonstrators protesting against the imposition of full martial law in South Korea in May 1980.

Both men have also been charged with amassing millions of dollars in slush funds during their presidential terms. Mr. Chun ruled South Korea from 1980-88 and Mr. Roh from 1988-93.

The prosecutor told the court that Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, both retired four-star generals, must be severely punished so that "This trial will serve as a historic landmark by showing that laws and justice rule this land."

He also sought fines of 283.9 billion won (\$349 million) for Mr. Roh and 222.3 billion won (\$273 million) for Mr. Chun for bribes they took from busi-

nessmen during their presidency.

The three-judge panel will sentence them on August 19.

The prosecution also asked for prison terms of between 10 years and life for 14 former senior military officers for their roles in the coup and the massacre, one of the most traumatic events in the nation's modern history.

"It is the duty of our generation to settle the legacies of a wrongful past," prosecutor Kim said.

"We must make sure the criminal acts of destroying the constitution, repressing the freedom of the people or corrupting the national economy by accepting bribes should never be repeated."

Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh have been on trial since last December as part of President Kim Young-Sam's campaign to "put history to rights."

Kim Young-Sam, the first president without a military background in three decades, has been riding on a national wave of revulsion against the corrupt excesses of his military-backed predecessors since he took office in February 1993.

The public gallery burst into thunderous applause when the prosecution demanded death sentence for Mr. Chun. The ex-presidents were often taunted with cries of "sons of bitches," "kill the bastard" and "execute the slaughterers."

But responding to prosecution's demand, the ram-

Manila warns of attack if rebels refuse to budge from villages

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — The Philippine military Monday gave Muslim rebels 24 hours to withdraw from two villages they had seized or face an army attack.

"If they will not leave Limangon, we will be constrained to take a drastic offensive action to remove them," Southern Military Commander Lieutenant-

General Ruperto Ambil said. About 200 Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) guerrillas occupied two villages on Limangon Island near Zamboanga City last week as Christians elsewhere in the southern Mindanao region protested against a peace deal between Manila and the MNLF.

Local officials said the raiders confiscated cattle and

demanded fuel when they took over the villages, forcing a number of the 2,000 Christians and Muslims in the area to flee.

They also seized two hostages but freed them later.

Ground troops were moving towards the rebel-held villages and the navy had blockaded the island, Gen. Ambil said.

Rescue is near for Amman Bank for Investment

By Samir Chermi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Reliable bank sources in Amman confirmed that negotiations had started to acquire the Amman Bank for Investment (ABI), which according to a source, is in a very bad financial condition.

The ABI is a heavy loss in the past two years and has been recently restructured. The Central Bank is planning to take over the bank, which is nearly bankrupt, and is in the process of liquidating the bank.

It is believed that the Central Bank has a plan to rescue the bank, which is a member of the Jordan Islamic Bank group.

According to the sources, the bank is in a very bad financial condition and is in the process of liquidating the bank. The bank is a member of the Jordan Islamic Bank group.

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Historic Canada cold war conference home burns



An alleged gang leader is set alight after being shot by vigilantes Sunday. The incident has raised tensions on the crime-ravaged South Africa's Cape Flats as thousands of armed Muslim vigilantes vow to continue their campaign against drug dealers and gang members (Renter photo)

S. African Muslims shoot, burn alleged drug baron

CAPE TOWN (R) — Masked Muslim vigilantes shot and burned a suspected drug baron to death Sunday in a showdown over rising drug trafficking and gangsterism in Cape Town's working class suburbs.

In the latest and most gruesome incident of a burgeoning war between community leaders and the city's violent gangs, hundreds of Muslim men watched as alleged drug baron Rashad Staggie ran engulfed in flames and then shot him repeatedly.

The killing came after several hundred members of the Muslim movement People Against Drugs and Gangsterism (PADAG) drove from their mosque to the home of Staggie's twin brother, Rashid, in the Salt River district near the centre of Cape Town and scores of the Muslim men, nearly all of them masked with balaclavas or scarves, produced firearms.

Shooting continued for more than 15 minutes with at least seven of the Muslim



Heavily armed South African police duck sniper fire as they attempt to move the body of an alleged gang leader set alight after being shot by vigilantes Sunday (Renter photos)

Marchers wounded, one apparently seriously by a bullet wound in the head. Two newspaper reporters were also wounded.

Around 10:30 p.m., Rashad Staggie arrived at the scene in a gleaming four-wheel-drive utility vehicle, nosing his way through the crowd and through a police cordon.

The crowd recognised him as one of the men they accuse of selling drugs to minor children and an argument erupted.

Mr. Staggie was shot at close range and fell to the ground outside his vehicle,

where he was hit by several more bullets.

Police pulled the crowd back from the wounded man, but as paramedics arrived and leaned over him, a crude petrol bomb was thrown from the crowd.

Mr. Staggie got up and, covered in flames, ran about 30 metres while the crowd, shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great), cleared a path and let him pass.

Mr. Staggie fell to the ground again. As he lay writhing, a policeman doused the flames with an extinguisher.

Police pushed the crowd back, but despite appeals to stop, masked men took it in turns to pump bullets into the dying man until he stopped moving.

"It was like they were having target practice," said one journalist later.

The crowd withdrew slowly shortly before midnight and police took the surviving twin from his house under guard to an undisclosed destination, leaving Rashad Staggie's teenage daughter weeping over his body.

No arrests were made at the scene.

Sri Lanka, rebels report heavy casualties in battle

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops killed at least 203 Tamil Tiger guerrillas as they advanced on the northern rebel-held town of Kilinochchi over the weekend, the Defence Ministry said Monday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in its account of the battle Sunday that aid officials say has left nearly 200,000 people homeless, said its rebels had killed at least 100 troops and destroyed five army tanks.

A Defence Ministry statement said 14 troops were killed, including an officer, near Paranthan, an outpost of Kilinochchi.

"Due to the confrontation on 4 Aug., one officer and 13 soldiers were killed and 32 soldiers were wounded," the ministry said. "Ground troops have confirmed 203 terrorists were killed and

estimate over one hundred were injured."

Troops moved out of the Paranthan outpost Sunday as part of a major advance launched on July 26 on Kilinochchi, 285 kilometres north of Colombo, in the latest upsurge in fighting in the 13-year-old war.

The offensive was launched shortly after the army's worst defeat of the war, in which some 3,000 guerrillas overran the Mullaitivu base on the northeast coast, killing or capturing almost the entire garrison of more than 1,000 men.

The LTTE are demanding independence for minority Tamils in the island's north and east.

"The advance recommenced this morning and the latest reports indicate that the terrorists are offering resistance," the Defence Ministry said.

In a statement Monday, the LTTE said: "More than 100 Sri Lankan troops were killed and five Sri Lankan army tanks completely destroyed when the LTTE forces opened fire on Sri Lankan troops who broke out of Paranthan and advanced towards Kilinochchi town in an attempt to capture it."

A second LTTE statement said heavy fighting had raged throughout Sunday near Kilinochchi and accused the army of killing "scores of civilians from intense shelling and heavy aerial bombardment."

The LTTE earlier said air force planes had bombed Buddhist targets, killing five people. There has been no official comment on the claim.

Air force bombers pounded rebel positions Sunday as troops resumed their advance after a week-long

lull.

Aid officials said they were preparing 35 schools in and around the frontline town of Vavuniya, 70 kilometres south of Kilinochchi, to accommodate the anticipated influx of refugees.

As the battle raged near Kilinochchi, a bodyguard of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga was wounded by an unidentified gunman in a shooting incident Sunday, police said Monday.

The shooting took place at the Sri Maha Bodhi (Sacred Bo Tree), a place venerated by Buddhists in Anuradhapura, 175 kilometres north of Colombo, where Kumaratunga was due to attend a religious meeting, they said.

Anuradhapura is a garrison town with a large presence of government troops.

Thousands of Hutus killed by Burundi army — U.N.

GENEVA (AFP) — The Tutsi-led army in Burundi killed thousands of Hutu civilians between April and July, a U.N. report said, citing its own observers in the strife-ravaged central African republic.

The U.N. report, a copy of which was obtained by AFP Monday, was the first mention of these new massacres in Burundi.

One of the worst was the massacre of about 500 people killed by soldiers in Nyeshenya in Gitekye province on June 27. Witnesses said another 1,200 people were killed by the army in Mushikano, in Muramvya province, between May 13 and 17.

Hundreds of other people were killed in separate massacres in various other provinces, the report added.

It was drawn up by a team of five U.N. observers who went to Burundi on April 19 for a human rights fact-finding mission. They were based in Bujumbura, but also went out into rural areas.

The report, scheduled for release Monday, said the last few months in Burundi had been marked by the massacres of civilians, assassinations, disappearances and arbitrary arrests.

It warned of an increase in ethnic violence across the country, particularly in the south and centre which has been largely spared up to now.

Burundi has been wracked by unrest since the country's first Hutu president was killed in a failed coup in October 1993.

The ethnic violence, compounded by an apparent failure to reach a political solution, prompted an army-backed coup last month in which Major Pierre Buyoya seized power, replacing President Sylvestre Ntibunganya.

Meanwhile Tanzania has ordered state-owned Air Tanzania to stop flights to Bujumbura following a decision by Burundi's neighbours to impose an economic blockade on the strife-torn central African country, officials said Monday.

"The government has instructed the national carrier, Air Tanzania Corporation, to stop flights to Bujumbura," the director of information in Tanzania's Foreign Ministry Cyprian Majengo told AFP.

Dar Es Salaam had also closed all entry points on its border with Burundi to prevent trucks from transporting goods to Bujumbura, and barred barges from carrying oil to Bujumbura from the Lake Tanganyika port of Kigoma in western Tanzania, he added.



Lawyer R.O. Tambunan (right) gestures as he walks with members of the legal team of ousted Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) leader Megawati Sukarnoputri, including the Legal Aid Institute's Lubut Pangaribuan (center) as they arrived at Jakarta Central Police Station Monday. The lawyers were representing Ms. Megawati after she was summoned as a witness in a case of spreading hatred against the president and government. Ms. Megawati did not appear because of legal flaws in the summons (Renter photo)

193 detained over Indonesian riots

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesian police are holding 193 people in connection with violent riots here nine days ago, the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) said Monday.

"The number is changing all the time, but now there are 193," said Ridarson Galangging, head of the civil and political rights section at LBH.

He said LBH lawyers met with the detainees Saturday and listed 190 people in custody in Jakarta's Central Police Headquarters, while three others were arrested Monday morning.

But on Monday police claimed to be holding only 133 people specifically in connection with the riots.

"We have given the dossiers of 123 of the 133 to the attorney general's department," Lieutenant General Imam Haryatna told AFP at police headquarters Monday, adding that the other ten were still being questioned.

"They are happy, and have been allowed to meet with lawyers," Haryatna said.

Police said last week the 123 would be charged with subversion, which carries a maximum penalty of death and allows the authorities to detain a person for up to

one year without trial.

Many of the detainees are supporters of ousted opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri and were arrested during and immediately after the riots.

The riots took place on the morning of July 27 sparked by a violent police raid on the party headquarters, occupied by supporters of Ms. Megawati, who was ousted as leader by a government-backed splinter faction.

Activists unrelated to Ms. Megawati's party have also been rounded up this week for belonging to human rights organisations and left-wing student and worker groups.

Three people were arrested Monday morning at the office of Wijayakusuma Foundation in Jakarta, Mr. Galangging said.

"They were arrested because of their involvement in MARI (Indonesian Peoples' Council) and are being held at police headquarters now," he said, adding that he would be present at their interrogations Monday afternoon with a team of lawyers.

He identified the three as Agustyana, Hassanuddin and Syarifuddin.

An organisation of 30

groups, MARI was set up in June to support Megawati following violent clashes between her supporters and troops outside Jakarta's Central Railway Station on June 20.

Activists sources said one of the activists arrested, Agustyana, played a major role in the June 20 demonstration and has been wanted by police ever since.

"We have three activists, two from Semarang (Central Java) and one from Jakarta," Mr. Haryatna said of the Saturday arrests, declining to provide the names of the activists.

Independent trade unionist Muchtar Pakpahan, also a leading figure in MARI, was arrested at his home last week and is being held on subversion charges.

The offices of the Human Rights Research and Information Centre (PIPHAM) were raided by police at 2:00 p.m. (1900 GMT Saturday) Sunday, activist sources said.

The sources said a PIPHAM staffer and a visitor from Medan, North Sumatra province, were taken by police for questioning. Their location is still unknown.

Indian premier visits Kashmir ahead of polls

JAMMU, India (R) — Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda visited the northern Jammu and Kashmir state amid tight security Monday to help pave the way to the first assembly polls in the rebellious province in nearly a decade.

The prime minister arrived in the Buddhist-dominated town of Leh, perched on a plateau in the Himalayan region of Ladakh, where he was welcomed by State Governor K.V. Krishna Rao, authorities said.

Later in the day he was set to visit Hindu-majority Jammu, the state winter capital to the south, to meet local politicians and address a public meeting, before flying to the mostly Muslim city of Srinagar in the Kashmir Valley, they said.

Srinagar is the epicentre of a six-year old separatist rebellion in which police and hospital sources say more than 20,000 people have died. Dozens of militant outfits are fighting either for independence or merger with neighbouring Pakistan.

The last state assembly elections were held in 1987, three years before the federal government disbanded the assembly in the face of insurgency-related violence and imposed direct rule over the state.

Last month the Election Commission announced that the first assembly polls

in nine years would be held in September. The commission was expected this week to announce the dates of the elections, to be staggered over four days.

Mr. Deve Gowda, who last month became the first prime minister to visit the Kashmir Valley since the outbreak of the separatist revolt, was expected to discuss the planned elections, including security measures, during his day-long tour.

A financial package which the prime minister unveiled last week was also expected to figure in talks with state officials.

The package, which the government said would boost the state's sagging economy but which opposition politicians called opportunistic, would allow borrowers to cancel up to 50,000 rupees (\$1,400) in debt and spur infrastructure projects.

Mr. Deve Gowda was also expected to discuss ways to help the more than quarter of a million Hindu refugees who fled the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley after the separatist rebellion broke out.

Mr. Deve Gowda's visit followed a weekend of activity in Kashmir, including visits by U.S. Ambassador to India Frank Wisner and the wives of two of four Western hostages held by guerrillas since July 1995.

Bangladesh protests 'push back' from Pakistan

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh has lodged a protest against the deportation of Bengali-speaking Muslims from Pakistan in a move that could stir a diplomatic row while the two countries are trying to strengthen ties.

Government officials said Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad told parliament Sunday evening "we have already lodged a protest with Pakistan. We cannot accept such push back."

He said Dhaka was trying to send back over 238,000 Pakistanis stranded since former East Pakistan emerged as independent Bangladesh in 1971.

Pakistani immigration officials in Karachi said Saturday they had arrested 19 people when they arrived from Dhaka Friday after being deported from Bangladesh in a dispute over their nationality.

They were among 72 people claiming to be Bangladeshis who were denied entry at Dhaka Airport when they flew there from Karachi Thursday.

The Bangladesh authorities, who say the deportees hold forged documents, were expected to send back the others on the next available flight of Pakistan International Airlines.

Pakistani officials say the deportees were Bangladeshis who left Pakistan voluntarily and would be sent back to Dhaka.

"We will ask the Bangladesh government to issue valid travelling documents on an emergency basis to these Bengalis," one official said, adding that "we have over two million illegal Bengali immigrants in Pakistan who are not accepted as Bangladeshi citizens by their own government."

The dispute threatened to undermine efforts to improve relations between the two countries.

A Pakistani trade delegation visited Bangladesh last week in what officials said was the first business contact since the new government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took over in June, and a second team was expected soon.

"Both countries are eager to establish closer economic and political ties," an official said.

Bangladesh, former East Pakistan, seceded from Pakistan in 1971 after a nine-month war helped by India.

Mr. Azad told parliament a large number of Urdu-speaking Biharis in East Pakistan opted to retain their Pakistani nationality after 1971 and go back to Pakistan.

A 1992 census by Saudi-based Islamic Charity Rabita Alam Al Islami counted 238,093 Biharis or stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh refugee camps.

Burmese opposition confirms death of detained activist

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burma's opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) Monday confirmed the death of Hla Than, 49, an activist elected to parliament in 1990 and detained by the junta later that year.

Sources close to the NLD, reached by telephone in Rangoon, said that Mr. Hla Than's body was cremated Sunday.

He was officially said to have died of tuberculosis, but the exiled opposition National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) alleged Sunday he had died on Aug. 2 of internal injuries due to torture in prison.

Mr. Hla Than was sent to Rangoon General Hospital from prison about two weeks ago "in very bad shape," one source said. The source declined to speculate on the cause of death, saying: "It could be any-

thing."

In June, the death in detention of Leo Nichols, de facto honorary consul for four European nations, triggered international protests over conditions at Rangoon's notorious Insein Jail and demands for an independent autopsy.

Nichols, 64, a close family friend of NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, was known to be in poor health when he was sentenced earlier this year to three years for unauthorised use of fax equipment.

He suffered an apparent stroke in his cell at Insein and was rushed to hospital where he died.

Hla Than, a lawyer, won a seat from the Coco Islands constituency in the 1990 elections which the NLD swept but which the junta never acknowledged.

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Peace process gets a push

SCEPTICS WHO cast doubt on the prospects of achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East should have a fresh look at the developments of the past three days. His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Assad decided during their talks Saturday to set up a joint committee to discuss water rights. A similar body was agreed between King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday. Mr. Netanyahu rightly said that water, or the lack of it, was a problem for all the countries of the region. Notwithstanding the fact that some consume more than the others, the fact that the countries of the region are willing to talk about water rights and water sharing is a far cry from the 1960s, when water, more available than than now, was one of the reasons that led to the 1967 war.

Despite the rhetoric on both sides, there is a feeling that both Arabs and Israelis are determined to pursue the goal of peace.

Jordan believes it has a dual role in the quest for peace. On the one hand, the Kingdom would like its peace with Israel to mature to an extent that would convince Israelis that warm and friendly relations with the Arabs are possible and convince other Arab countries that peace with Israel would restore to them all territorial and other rights. On this front, Jordan has pushed its peace treaty with Israel to the most possible limits of open borders, full diplomatic ties and full cooperation in all fields. Many Jordanians, though, believe Israel has not reciprocated in kind. Trade between the two countries and between Jordan and Palestinian territories has not kicked off despite repeated Jordanian pleas because of obstacles placed by the Jewish state.

On the other hand, Jordan would want, as Minister of Information Marwan Muasher put it in a recent interview, to use its good offices with the Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and Israelis to push the peace process ahead. The result of this has been apparent during the Israeli prime minister's talks with Jordanian leaders yesterday during which King Hussein conveyed to Mr. Netanyahu President Assad's genuine interest in resuming negotiations with Israel. The Israeli leader was quick to respond that his country would "readily take up" the Syrian desire to resume negotiations.

We think that it is up to Israel, the occupying power in the West Bank, Gaza, South Lebanon and the Golan to respond to the Arabs' genuine desire for peace and to resume peace talks on all tracks as soon as possible.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily criticised plans to dispose of the Ministry of Information, charging that the move was part of a policy meant to weaken and eventually dismantle the state by depriving it of one of its most efficient tools for self-defence. Fahed Fanek said that one must admit that the Jordanian information services are not exemplary, but given a chance, they would excel in providing a good service to the public and reflect the official Jordanian views as they did during the second Gulf war and during the intifada in Palestine. The information minister should work towards promoting the Ministry of Information's services rather than scrapping it and thus ensure continued success, said the writer who warned that substituting the Ministry of Information with boards of directors from the private sector to control and supervise the work of the national radio and television stations can by no means serve the purpose. He said that if the government is keen on privatisation, it should pull out from the Jordanian dailies Al Ra'i and Al Dustour and contemplate the idea of abandoning the state radio and television services.

A WRITER for Al Dustour urged the government to substitute the small cars used as a means of public transport in Jordan with large mass transportation vehicles, like big buses and trains, to save fuel and protect the environment. Taher Al Adwan said that it is a blessing for Jordan to be a neighbour of Iraq, benefiting from that country's relatively cheap crude oil, but the consumption of so much fuel by hundreds of thousands of cars that congest the roads and pollute the environment is indeed a disadvantage for the country. In many advanced countries private cars are only used during the weekends and public holidays, as the majority of the public commute every day by using public transport, saving their countries a fortune that would have been spent on fuel, and safeguarding the environment, he added. The writer suggested that buses be introduced into the public system on a large scale, serving all sectors and moving to the various destinations on set schedules. By opting for public transport systems on a large scale, he added, the country would spend less on opening tunnels and building bridges to cater to the pressure of growing numbers of cars on the roads.

The View from Fourth Circle

Assessing two years of Jordanian-Israeli peace-making

By Rami G. Khouri

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's official visit to Jordan yesterday took place just over two years after Jordan and Israel signed the Washington declaration that effectively ended the state of war between our two countries and paved the way for the October 1994 peace agreement.

At this convenient moment to assess the quality of peace, justice, normalisation and reconciliation between Jordan and Israel, we seem to be defined by often contradictory forces and sentiments that beg deeper mutual analysis and appreciation by Jordanians and Israelis alike. My reading of the situation is as follows:

1. On the bilateral front, the most positive development is that the full range of sectoral agreements has been signed and most of them are being implemented, albeit with varying speeds and degrees of enthusiasm. Relations in fields such as transport, tourism, water, security, health care and commerce are slowly and quietly developing in a relatively healthy manner that benefits both sides. On the negative side, the big, showcase bilateral and multilateral endeavours in the fields of water, energy, communications and infrastructure are moving less slowly, or not at all.

2. The peace treaty has killed and buried the Israeli inclination towards, and the Jordanian fear of, the doctrine that Jordan is Palestine. This is a major existential and national gain for Jordan; it is also a crucial impetus to force Israelis to come to grips with the fact that the core Zionist-Palestinian conflict must be resolved through territorial and political compromises in Israel and Palestine, rather than via the traditional Zionist penchant of dumping the Palestinian people and their political rights on neighbouring Arab lands. The corollary to the "Jordan is Palestine" view is the Zionist commitment to the concept of a Greater Israel, in which Palestinian lands and rights are viewed as a minor domestic issue that can be resolved through the granting of autonomy to the Palestinians. The advent of Likud rule, and the statements and policy decisions of the new Israeli government, have yet to clarify the fate of the Greater Israel strategy.

3. In Israel, the Netanyahu government has spoken in slightly different voices to different audiences — in Israel, the United States, Egypt, and, now, in Jordan. Mr. Netanyahu is acting as the polished, slippery politician that he clearly is, telling all his different interlocutors what they want to hear, without being bound by either logistical clarity or strategic coherence. He will probably attempt to maintain this ambiguous posture for many more months, until domestic or international pressures force him to do otherwise.

4. On the Jordanian front, we witness determined efforts by the leadership to promote the full promise of peace, yet we also see significant, widespread hesitation by ordinary Jordanians and the intelligentsia to normalise relations with Israelis. Most of this hesitation was evident during

the incumbency of the Labour-led government, and is not related to the advent of Likud-led rule in Israel. The extensive reluctance of Jordanians to normalise relations with Israelis is deeply rooted in a pervasive Jordanian grassroots perception of Israel as a rather devious entity that values its hegemonic strategic designs in the Arab region more than it values an equitable peace that affirms the equal rights of Israelis and its essential nationalistic adversary in Palestine.

5. While the state interests of Jordan are clearly being served by the implementation of the peace treaty, and the fruits of peace slowly assert themselves and filter down to the level of the average family, we continue to experience wider, popular Jordanian scepticism about the intentions of Israel. This is due to the often inconvenient fact that Jordanian national identity, interests, sentiments and rights are not as neatly compartmentalised as the straightforward interests of the state. And this, in turn, reflects the fact that Jordanians judge the peace accord according to the dual criteria of our Jordanian identity and our pan-Arab and pan-Islamic sentiments and identities.

"Many Jordanians see Israel's treatment of Palestinians, Lebanese and Syrians as confirming the Israeli desire to assert Israeli supremacy in the region. This is further complicated by the reality that several million Jordanians of Palestinian origin claim restitution from the Israeli state of lands and economic interests that Israel has neither addressed nor even acknowledged."

It seems to me that the single most important reason for Jordanians' widespread hesitation to normalise relations with Israel continues to be the feeling that the peace accord has slightly isolated Jordan from its wider Arab-Islamic hinterland and accentuated our well-being's reliance on the goodwill of Israel and the United States. Many Jordanians see Israel's treatment of Palestinians, Lebanese and Syrians as confirming the Israeli desire to assert Israeli supremacy in the region. This is further complicated by the reality that several million Jordanians of

Palestinian origin claim restitution from the Israeli state of lands and economic interests that Israel has neither addressed nor even acknowledged. Thus, while Jordanians and other Arabs — peoples and governments alike — have clearly gone on record as accepting to live in peace with the state of Israel, they will only activate this conditional acceptance if Israel in turn shows a willingness by its deeds to live on equal terms with Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese, as it has done with Egyptians and Jordanians. The Jordanian and Egyptian governments' peace accords with Israel have ended the state of war with Israel; but the people of Jordan and Egypt have also clearly articulated a deeper view that we accept to live with Israeli sovereignty but not with Israel's arrogance or its exaggerated sense of superiority and unilateral security.

6. The very slow pace of grassroots normalisation between Israel and each of Egypt and Jordan should prompt thoughtful Israelis to explore this phenomenon and to understand its underlying causes. While gradual normalisation will surely continue apace, there is a danger that a majority of Israelis will interpret our lack of desire to normalise as a much more significant lack of desire to accept Israel in this region. This would be a wrong interpretation.

Normalisation of Egyptian and Jordanian relations with Israel is not very important to Israel in economic terms, but it is important in political terms. Continued non-normalisation runs the risk of freezing the peace accords with Egypt and Jordan at their current levels, and heightening popular fears among Israelis that they are not accepted as a people or state in this predominantly Arab-Islamic region. Such an Israeli interpretation could then cause Israel to become even more hardline and miserly in negotiations with Palestinians, Lebanese and Syrians, leading to a protracted period of political stalemate, terror and military clashes, and an escalating cycle of disappointment and tension among Jordanians and Egyptians. We have seen this week how rising frustrations in Palestine are causing Mr. Arafat's government to explore means of appeasing a domestic opposition that will often articulate its grievances in the vocabulary of an unjust and unsatisfactory peace that places a higher premium on assuring Israeli security than it does on assuring the political dignity and economic well-being of Arabs.

Mr. Netanyahu and his colleagues would do well to ponder these points during their visits to Arab lands, and to explore more fully the reasons why Israel's signing of peace accords with neighbouring Arab governments has not necessarily translated into genuine peace and reconciliation with neighbouring Arab peoples. The lessons and experiences of Jordan are perhaps more important than Egypt's in this respect, given the enthusiasm that the Jordanian and Israeli governments have shown in making peace and in building on its many promises.

'International terrorism' — a term for a phenomenon that is not there

By G. H. Jansen

DESPITE THE noisy fuss made by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the threat of "international terrorism", this phenomenon does not exist. The Israelis and Americans have invented the notion of a "global menace", an "infection" now reaching "epidemic proportions" to suit their personal political agendas but, in spite of the fact that "international terrorism" has been discussed at three major international conferences this year, the world has not worked out an action plan for eradicating it. This has not happened because "terrorism" is not a communicable disease, like polio or smallpox, which infects anyone and everyone. It cannot be treated globally but only on a case-by-case basis.

The hoopla created by these two politicians contrasts dramatically with the attitude of the professionals. Thus, the head of the American Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louis Freeh, who ought to know what he is talking about, after listing recent violent incidents such as the two explosions in U.S. military installations in Saudi Arabia, the downing of

TWA flight 800 off New York and the bomb in the Olympic Park at Atlanta, did not refer to them as examples of "international terrorism" but simply as "attacks on the U.S. and its interests at home and abroad." Which is exactly what they were.

Clinton and Netanyahu have failed to convert world leaders to the global struggle against "international terrorism" because these leaders know very well that Freeh is correct about "terrorism" targeting certain countries and their interests for specific reasons. And it is because Israel and the U.S. do not want to give publicity to the reasons why "terrorists" attack them that Clinton and Netanyahu continue to promote the illusion of "international terrorism". The objective of most "terrorists" is to make their targets accountable for their policies by forcing them to change their policies or punishing them for their actions.

But neither Clinton nor Netanyahu is prepared to take the consequences of their policies or to change policies which harm others. For instance, Netanyahu wants to escape responsibility for Israel's dispossession and dispersion of the Palestinian people and for Israel's military occupation

of southern Lebanon. And Clinton does not want Americans punished for the policies pursued by Washington's closest ally, Israel. He is ably assisted in his policy of creating the illusion of "international terrorism" by the American media.

To camouflage attacks launched to punish the U.S. for its sponsorship of Israel, The Washington Post recently lumped together the 1983 bombing of the American marine barracks in Beirut, the 1995 blast in Oklahoma City, the World Trade Centre explosion and the bombing of American installations in Saudi Arabia. Other commentators added the gas attacks on Tokyo's underground and bomb attacks against British targets by the Irish Republican Army (IRA). But these attempts to camouflage the reality only expose the truth. The Tokyo and Oklahoma City incidents were purely domestic, a consequence of social and political alienation. IRA bombings, whether conducted against British targets at home or abroad, are also domestic, involving the long-term struggle of Irish nationalists to end British rule in northern Ireland.

The other incidents are, indeed, "international" because they have been carried out by one nationality against another. U.S. marines were attacked in Beirut because they had backed one side against another in a civil war. The bomb at the World Trade Centre was planted by Islamist militants protesting Washington's assault on Iraq and support for Israel. The bombers in Saudi Arabia targeted U.S. military installations because of widespread popular opposition to the basing of American soldiers on holy Islamic soil. American unquestioning support for the monarchy and the U.S.-Israel connection.

To prevent people from making the "cause and effect" connection, Israel and the U.S. have launched an economic and political sanctions crusade against "rogue states" which are, allegedly, the sources of "international terrorism" — namely, Iran, Libya and lately, Sudan. Yesterday, President Clinton announced the tightening of sanctions by signing into law a bill to punish foreign companies that invest in oil and gas projects in Iran and Libya. Last week the U.S. defence secretary, William Perry, suggested that a "foreign power" might have been involved in the latest bombing of a U.S. military housing complex in Al

Khobar in Saudi Arabia while "official sources" named Iran, a charge Tehran hotly denied. Syria was initially said to be the foreign culprit, but Saudi investigators quickly cleared Damascus of involvement. Having identified — correctly or falsely — those they consider "rogue states" the U.S. and Israel seek to quarantine them. But so far, Europe has resisted this campaign.

The present anti-terrorist campaign must be seen as a reversion by Washington to the former cold war strategy of blaming its political opponents for developments the U.S. did not like. The U.S. blamed China for the insurgency in Vietnam, Cuba for trouble in Latin America and the Soviet Union for strife in Africa. The U.S. never did admit these insurgencies were home-grown and adapt its policies to fit local circumstances. The respected American syndicated columnist William Pfaff summed up the situation when he wrote recently: "Recognition of the obvious is avoided in Washington by assigning responsibility to some foreign enemy of the United States."

Most countries pursue their policies and take the consequences. Thus, India holds onto Kashmir and suf-

fers bomb attacks at the heart of Old Delhi. France backs the Algerian government against the Islamists who plant bombs on the Paris Metro. Spain refuses to give the Basques independence and absorbs their terrorist attacks without launching an international campaign to resist "international terrorism". Britain keeps a stiff upper lip when hit by Irish bombers.

For West Asia and the peace process which was meant to secure a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the "terrorism" campaign is a very destructive development. First, "terrorism" has been given priority over peacemaking. And second, Washington has begun to tailor its policies to suit the new headline Likud government in Israel which is determined not to give "land for peace". The Arabs have made it clear that Israel cannot have both the lands it occupied in 1967 and peace, and that the failure of the peace process can only result in a resumption of violence. Thus, the "scam" of imaginary "international terrorism" appears designed to deny legitimacy to legitimate Arab resistance to permanent Israeli occupation and to preserve "Greater Israel".

to our beloved country. However, it is easy for us to imply that our citizens need to start relying on themselves and to start contributing to the welfare of our country. I must stress that they cannot make this contribution if they are not being informed of domestic issues by the media before policy changes are implemented. If the public better understands these issues, they will have the opportunity to take part in the debate, instead of just reacting to policy changes.

The role of the media is paramount to public debate and should be taken seriously. I hope to see more articles similar to Dr. Majdoub's in the future so that our people can make well-informed decisions on issues.

H.H. Al-Sharif Hassan Ben Zaid Hussain,
Washington.

Paramount role of the media

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to commend Dr. Ahmad Majdoub on his article entitled "Broad, politics, citizen role and the shape of things to come" (Jordan Times Aug. 1, 1996). The article reflects the type of comprehensive analysis needed desperately in Jordan in order to help educate the public on both Jordanian and international issues. Unfortunately, this type of article is rare.

I believe that we have reached a critical point in time, where the media's role is as important as ever.

LETTERS

As you are aware, the media is one of the most powerful sources of information. It is to the working public what schools and universities are for students. It keeps the public informed about the situation abroad and at home. The media must start taking their role more seriously and bring to the attention of the public all major issues concerning the welfare of Jordan. The issues might not be vital at the time an article is written, but might have an enormous effect on them in later years. For example, if the public had been aware of Jordan's economic situation years ago, they would have better understood the government's attempts for economic reform today.

I believe we in Jordan have some of the brightest people anywhere in the world and they can be an invaluable asset

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain urges summit to end row

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa on Monday called for a summit with Qatar to settle a territorial dispute, the official Gulf News Agency reported. It said Sheikh Hamad called for "a summit meeting to reach a permanent and comprehensive settlement based on commitments and the constitutional basis of both countries." Bahrain and Qatar are locked in a long-standing border row over a number of barren but potentially oil and gas-rich Gulf islands. Sheikh Hamad reiterated Bahrain's stand that Saudi mediation would be the best solution to the dispute. In May, Bahrain urged Qatar to withdraw the case it had taken to the International Court of Justice in the Hague to settle the dispute and accept Saudi arbitration. Qatar said it would only withdraw the case from the world court if Saudi Arabia's mediation succeeded.

Turkey: No Israeli official visit this week

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's Foreign Ministry said on Monday an expected visit by an Israeli official to sign a defence industry cooperation agreement had been postponed. "The visit will not happen this week because the necessary preparations have not been completed," a Foreign Ministry official told Reuters. Israel's undersecretary of defence, David Ivry, was expected in Ankara to sign an agreement, initiated in March, seen as the latest sign of growing ties between the two countries. The Turkish Foreign Ministry official said the cabinet had not yet given the authority to sign the agreement. Turkey's Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan strongly opposed an earlier military training agreement between the two countries when he was in opposition. However, he toned down his criticism after taking power five weeks ago. The training agreement, made public in April, drew heavy criticism from Muslim countries who charged Ankara with abandoning Muslim solidarity against the Jewish state. Diplomatic sources said they believed the signing of the latest agreement was being delayed until after a two-day visit by Mr. Erbakan to Iran this week.

Ankara aide says PKK talks possible

ANKARA (R) — A Senior Turkish politician said on Monday that the government might be willing to allow talks with separatist Kurdish rebels if they gave up their 12-year-old armed campaign. "He said it was impossible for the state to talk to an armed gang but if they give up their arms, talks could be held by means of intermediaries," Anatolian news agency said, referring to conservative True Path Party (DYP) Deputy Chairman Mehmet Golhan. The DYP of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller is the smaller of the two parties in Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's five-week-old government. Turkish officials have rarely advocated talks to end the PKK's 12-year fight for self-rule in the mainly Kurdish southeast. More than 20,000 people have died in the conflict.

Taliban claim taking Hezb-e-Islami base

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Islamic Taliban opposition militia said on Monday it had consolidated its grip on an important military base of the pro-government Hezb-e-Islami faction in eastern Afghanistan. The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press quoted a Taliban spokesman in Peshawar as saying that Taliban fighters had mopped up all resistance in the Tabout area, 45 kilometres east of Urgan in Pakhtia province, by Sunday evening. The spokesman, Maulvi Ahmad Jan, said 30 Hezb-e-Islami fighters had been killed and about 100 captured since the Taliban attacked the base on Thursday. He gave no figure for Taliban casualties. Mr. Jan said the Taliban had also seized some 150 artillery pieces and mortars of various calibres along with large quantities of small arms from the Hezb-e-Islami arsenal at Tabout. Hezb-e-Islami officials could not immediately be contacted and no independent account of the fighting was available. Hezb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, once a main opponent of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, rejoined the Kabul government in June as prime minister. The Taliban movement, which like Hezb-e-Islami draws its support mainly from ethnic Pashtuns, has sworn to oust Mr. Rabbani and install a purist Islamic order throughout Afghanistan.

Iberia hijacker is Palestinian — police

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese police said Monday the man who hijacked an Iberia aircraft to Miami on July 25 was a Palestinian refugee and not a Lebanese citizen as he had claimed. Saadoun Mohammed Ibrahim, who commandeered the plane to Miami on its way from Spain to Cuba, was a Palestinian residing in the 'Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of the southern port of Sidon, according to a police report published by Beirut newspapers. Upon his arrest, Ibrahim told United States authorities he was Lebanese. According to Lebanese police, Ibrahim, 28, held a Palestinian refugee card issued by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees. Police said Ibrahim had left Lebanon with a travel document issued by the Lebanese authorities to Palestinian refugees residing in Lebanon. About 350,000 Palestinian refugees live in Lebanon, mainly in 'Ain Al Hilweh, according to UNRWA figures.

Israel slams Priebke court ruling

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel on Monday assailed an Italian military court ruling ordering the release of former SS Captain Erich Priebke despite his conviction for taking part in the war-time killing of 335 Italians. "The Israeli foreign ministry expresses its shock at the decision taken by the military court in Italy," the ministry said in a statement. "It is inconceivable that Priebke, who admitted to personally supervising the murder of 335 human beings, should be allowed to walk free," it said. Priebke was found guilty on Thursday by a military tribunal in Rome of taking part in the so-called Ardeatine Caves massacre in 1944, carried out in reprisal for the killing of 33 German soldiers by Italian partisans. But the court freed him because it ruled he was acting under orders, which meant the killing could not be considered a crime against humanity and so had run up against Italy's 20-year statute of limitations. Priebke, whose victims included several Jews, is however still in prison pending an appeal by the Italian prosecutor and possible extradition moves by Germany.

Israel wants to breathe new life into peace treaty

(Continued from page 1)

comprehensive peace with the participation of all concerned parties," the King added.

On the political front, Mr. Netanyahu told the press conference that his government was committed to honouring all agreements that Israel have reached with the Palestinians, that a recent Israeli decision did not imply building new settlements in the West Bank and called on Syria to resume peace negotiations with the Jewish state.

The Israeli prime minister told the joint press conference with King Hussein also said his government was committed not to change the status of Jerusalem pending a final settlement with the Palestinians and urged the Palestinians from doing so.

On the bilateral front with Jordan, Mr. Netanyahu promised to remove bureaucratic obstacles in the way of the Kingdom's trade with Israel and the Palestinian territories and said he was determined to "breathe new life into the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty."

He paid tribute to King Hussein as a great champion of peace and said the "steadfast position of Jordan on peace" was a "source of great encouragement and pride for the people of Israel."

Emphasising the need to strengthen the state of peace between Jordan and Israel through economic cooperation, Mr. Netanyahu said he discussed "the various actions we could take for the expression of this peace on all fronts, including the economic one, movement of people, goods and ideas across our common borders."

"There have to be tangible benefits because this is what peace gives," he said. "It gives the advantages of commerce, of trade, of improvement in the living standards."

Mr. Netanyahu, who was accompanied by senior aides and a high-level business delegation, said he discussed the issue with Crown Prince Hassan "with greater detail how to facilitate a good life, prosperity and not just slogans and tangible ways to cut red tape."

Asserting that bureaucratic hurdles existed on both sides, he said, "I wish we could take scissors and cut it away so that we can get a real movement, real essence of economic activity that could benefit both sides of the border."

Replying to a question on the delay in Jordan getting its full share of water as stipulated in the peace treaty, Mr. Netanyahu said the shortage of water was not an issue that could be solved either by Israel or Jordan or even together.

It is an issue that Israel intends to take up with Syria, he said, adding that a

regional framework was essential to address the problem. He announced the formation of a special committee on water. Details of the composition of the panel were not immediately available.

Replying to the same question, King Hussein said: "There is no problem...we received what we were due and we continue to receive that. There is an agreement to look for further sources of water and we are going to do that."

The Israeli prime minister rejected reports that his government was opposed to a proposal to expand Aqaba airport to serve both Jordan and Israel.

"We are not opposed to it. On the contrary, we think it is one of the great developing areas of the world," he said. "We are looking at all possible ways to move ahead with it as soon as possible."

"If you ask me how soon, our answer is as soon as possible," he added. "By the way, (hawkish Infrastructure Minister Ariel) Sharon has great support for it."

That was a reference to reports that Mr. Sharon opposed the proposal to develop the airport as a common facility. Mr. Netanyahu suggested that the media were responsible for the suggestion that Mr. Sharon opposed it.

Mr. Netanyahu also said discussions were under way on "fairly large projects" with the involvement of Egypt and Jordan that would contribute to the economic growth of the two countries as well as that of Israel. He did not elaborate.

On the Palestinian front, Mr. Netanyahu said reciprocity was the key to the success of all agreements. "We fulfil agreements and by that I mean both sides...not only that we expect the Palestinian side to fulfil theirs but that we intend to keep our side of the agreements as well."

The prime minister said a recent decision by his government to lift constraints on building was not a policy that meant building new settlements and that it was aimed at facilitating the "natural growth of communities" — meaning that existing settlements in the West Bank could build further infrastructure.

"It does not mean that the government has removed its own hands" on the basic principle of building settlements, he said. "This government will decide how to allocate our resources, and those decisions will be taken by the government as a whole," he added, in an obvious assurance that hardline cabinet members in his coalition government would not have a free hand to set up new settlements.

The decision to lift restriction on building in settlements has drawn strong criticism from the Palestinians and other Arabs, including the Arab



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday lays a wreath at the tomb of King Abdullah (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

League itself and the media in the Arab World.

King Hussein said the issue was discussed during his meeting with Mr. Netanyahu but that "I believe there is too much speculation, too much of an attempt to blow things out of proportion at times and create areas of misunderstanding."

He said he would convey what he learnt from Mr. Netanyahu to "our Palestinian brothers and to anyone who asks."

"I trust that the Israeli government will act very prudently and will make sure that it doesn't create obstacles but incentives and opportunities for achieving progress at times ahead."

It was Mr. Netanyahu's first visit to Jordan after taking office as prime minister in June.

A small group of activists staged a demonstration outside the Prime Ministry to

protest the visit.

Shortly after the Israeli leader arrived, King Hussein held a closed door meeting with him attended by Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Kabariti. It was followed by senior officials from both sides.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said discussions during the meeting focused on means of supporting the peace process at all tracks.

"The two sides stressed the need to continue the process and to preserve what has been achieved so far until a comprehensive, lasting and just peace is achieved..." Petra said.

King Hussein briefed Mr. Netanyahu on the outcome of his talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and the Syrian side's desire to achieve peace, it said (see separate story).

The talks also dealt with the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, with the two

sides stressing the need to continue peace efforts on the basis of the Oslo agreement "since the Palestinian problem is the root cause of the Middle East conflict," the agency said.

In addition, the two sides discussed means to implement the provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and expanding bilateral relations in various fields, including joint and regional projects pertaining to investment and developing the Jordan Valley and the Aqaba airport among others.

Prime Hassan had a separate meeting with Mr. Netanyahu on means to implement joint projects, including the Jordan Rift Valley Development Project, the water issue, facilitating the movement of individuals and goods between the two countries and between Jordan and the self-rule areas.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, the King's advisor on national security affairs, the minister of water and irrigation, the president of the Aqaba Region Authority, senior officials and the Jordanian ambassador to Israel.

On the Israeli side the talks were attended by senior officials. Mr. Netanyahu also paid a visit to the Tomb of King Abdullah and laid a wreath there.

Mr. Netanyahu, who was accompanied by his wife on the visit to Jordan, later flew to Petra and left for home after a tour of the ancient city.

He was seen off by Royal Court Chief Khasawneh, Tourism Minister Saleh Irshaidat and Transport Minister Nasser Lawzi.

Clinton signs bill against Iran and Libya

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. pressure on its allies to impose sanctions under the threat of mandatory penalties on our companies carrying out trade with these countries in the oil and gas sectors."

In Paris, French foreign ministry spokesman Yves Douriaux warned France would not stand idly by while its interests are affected. "We are working actively with our European Union partners to prepare appropriate responses to the implementation of this law," Mr. Douriaux said.

Meanwhile in Bonn, German Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt said "the threat of extra-territorial sanctions against European companies investing over a certain amount is not the right way to fight the

growth of terrorism." In Brussels, EU trade commissioner Sir Leon Brittan continued the united front.

"The EU has already said it will act to defend its rights and interests if they are jeopardised by this legislation."

Mr. Clinton addressed European criticisms in his speech arguing that "you cannot do business with countries that practice commerce with you by day while funding or protecting the terrorists who kill you and your innocent civilians by night."

"That is wrong. I hope and expect that before long, our allies will come around to accepting this fundamental truth," he said.

European countries, in particular Germany and France, have refused to follow the U.S. lead and isolate

Tehran, arguing that such a policy will further radicalise the Islamic fundamentalist regime.

Mr. Clinton's approval of the bill coincided with Pentagon warnings of an "imminent" terrorist attack against U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia, site of two anti-American bombings in nine months.

Defence Secretary William Perry on Saturday said U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia were placed on the highest state of alert "to prepare for an imminent terrorist attack" and singled out Iran and Iraq as countries that oppose the U.S. presence in the region.

"Terrorism is the enemy of our generation and we must prevail," Mr. Clinton said in his address at George Washington University that was attended by families of the victims of Pan Am Flight

103. The Iran and Libya sanctions act requires the president to choose two penalties from a menu of options including a ban on exports to the United States, on financial assistance from the Export-Import Bank and on export licences for U.S. technology.

The president could also bar targeted companies from loans of more than \$10 million by any U.S. financial organisation and prohibit access to federal government contracts.

The law toughens an embargo that Mr. Clinton slapped on Iran in June 1995 that forced U.S. oil companies to pull out of the lucrative market.

Italy later joined the chorus of European disapproval. The foreign ministry in Rome said the d'Amato Law was "not suited to combating terrorism."

'Lebanon first' could be very good starting point

(Continued from page 1)

peace negotiations (and) we are prepared to do in the immediate future," said the prime minister, who, throughout the press conference, adopted a carefully measured moderate tone that contrasted his opposition to some of the basic Arab demands for a comprehensive peace settlement.

Although he did not say so in so many words, Mr. Netanyahu's call on Syria was widely seen as an indication that he might be willing to discuss some compromise over the Golan Heights.

Mr. Netanyahu's consistent argument has been that Israel would be vulnerable to attacks if it withdraws from the strategic plateau that overlooks northern Israel. He has also contended that there was no guarantee that future Syrian leaderships would honour a commitment not to attack

Israel. Describing the tension and frequent clashes with Lebanese guerrillas in South Lebanon as "our immediate concern," Mr. Netanyahu on Monday renewed his "Lebanon-first" option that calls for an Israeli-Syrian agreement on the Lebanese track of peace talks.

"We have no territorial claims on Lebanon whatsoever," he said. "What we seek to achieve on the Lebanese border is tranquillity and security."

If that could be achieved, then "it can be a very good starting point in building a relationship of trust, a relationship of stability, a relationship of confidence" that would help the negotiations with Syria "on all outstanding issues."

Under the "Lebanon-first" option, Israel is offering to end its 11-year-old occupation of a border strip in southern Lebanon under certain conditions. The

withdrawal will be followed up with Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

As Mr. Netanyahu made his implicit call on Syria to consider his offer, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi was holding talks with President Assad in Damascus.

Reports said the focus of the talks was the Israeli proposal in what was seen as a Syrian seriousness to consider the idea, which was, however, criticised by the state-run Syrian media on Saturday as an effort to drive a wedge between Damascus and Beirut.

President Hrawi has made several public offers to Israel to ensure the security and stability of the Israeli-Lebanese border in return for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupation zone. But Israel turned down the offer saying there had to be Syrian guarantees for such a move.

The King told Monday's press conference that Jordan was not brokering a

peace agreement between Israel and Syria but that the Kingdom stood ready to contribute in whatever form and content any help in facilitating the negotiations for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The King said no time frame could be set for a Syrian-Israeli peace accord, but reaffirmed that during his talks in Damascus he found "no change in the Syrian commitment to achieving peace."

According to an informed source, President Assad, in his talks with King Hussein on Saturday, expressed willingness "to pick up from where it was left off in Wyne Plantation," the last venue of negotiations which were broken off in late February when Damascus refused to condemn a series of deadly suicide bombings in Israel.

Iran dissidents say Tehran attacked base

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iranian exile group based in Iraq said Iranian "agents" launched on Monday a rocket attack against one of its bases west of Baghdad. A Mujahadeen-e-Khalq spokesman in the Iraqi capital said two

rockets fired at the base missed their target and landed in residential areas, but caused no casualties. "The mullahs' regime launched a missile attack against a Mujahadeen base west of Baghdad on Monday morning, Aug. 5," the spokesman told reporters in Baghdad.

There was no immediate confirmation of the attack by the authorities in Baghdad. A statement issued by the group said Mujahadeen guards "arrived at the scene in a few minutes and defused six other rockets that were being fired with a timer device."

All the weapons and equipment used by the terrorists and seized by Mujahadeen guards had been smuggled across the border from Iran and the missiles were identical with the ones captured by the Mujahadeen (before)."

The statement said leader of the group Massoud Rajavi sent letters to the United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali and members of the Security Council asking them to take action against the Iranian regime.

**HOROSCOPE
FORECAST
FOR TUESDAY
AUGUST
6, 1996**
By Thomas S. Pierse
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

12

Historic Canada cold war conference home burns

Business & Finance

Rescue is near for Amman Bank for Investment

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Reliable banking sources on Monday confirmed that negotiations had reached an advanced stage for the Arab Bank to acquire the Amman Bank for Investment (ABI), which according to many bankers, "is not in a healthy financial situation."

The ABI posted heavy losses in the past two years and it was recently rumoured that the Amman Bank was negotiating with the Central Bank to purchase the troubled bank, whose shares plummeted from nearly JD1.090 to JD0.270 in the past 12 months.

It seems that the Cairo Amman Bank has not been successful because a banker, who requested anonymity, confirmed Monday that the Arab Bank Ltd. was negotiating with the Central Bank to buy ABI.

"Negotiations are at an advanced stage," the banker told the Jordan Times. He indicated that a final decision could be reached next week.

Other sources, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said many banks had offered to acquire ABI and everything was still under consideration.

According to various reports, the ABI tried to revive troubled companies but, instead of pulling them out, was dragged to their side of the struggle.

Despite such losses and the collapse in its share prices, ABI shares continue to be traded at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) which should have suspended such trading long time ago.

An AFM source explained that due to the sensitivity of suspending the trading of any bank in Jordan, the stock exchange usually consults the Central Bank in this regard. "In this case the AFM was asked not to resort to this measure so as to safeguard against any public misunderstanding of such a suspension in share trading," said the source.

Other bankers and officials contacted by the Jordan Times said that ABI was under the supervision of the Central Bank and it was only a matter of time before the monetary authority approves a takeover of ABI by another bank.

Market sources expect ABI to be turned into an Islamic bank to break the monopoly of the Jordan Islamic Bank on the banking sector.

Investor optimism on EMU could be too good to last

BRUSSELS (R) — Markets never stand still for long — at least that is the view among financial analysts who think current investor optimism on European Monetary Union (EMU) will suffer a blow ahead of its launch in 1999.

While 2-1/2 years may not seem like a long time for European politicians, it is an eternity in global bond and currency markets, where volatility often means profits.

Over the past six months investor confidence in the timely realisation of a single currency has grown considerably.

Since the European Union's (EU's) Madrid summit in December, markets have shown an unflagging belief that politics will matter more than sound economic fundamentals in seeing the project through.

Although such a view may ultimately prove correct, few are willing to bet

that today's tranquil environment, characterised by low market volatility and increasing economic convergence, will persist.

"We are well advised that this strange situation will not last very long," says Juergen Pfister, chief economist at Commerzbank in Frankfurt.

Just what might cause a reversal in the "feel-good factor" for economic and monetary union is unclear. But several economists said the potential threat could be described in one of two ways.

First, there is an external shock. At the moment, the most damaging one would be a sharp rise in U.S. long-term interest rates.

With the U.S. economy showing increasing signs of robust growth, the Federal Reserve might have to tighten credit policy more than is currently expected.

The knock-on effect to Europe's bond markets would be swift and costly, say analysts. Rising interest rates in Europe would harm its fragile economic expansion and lead to higher payments on outstanding debt.

"This is the most urgent problem which has relevance for Europe," adds Mr. Pfister.

In the end, EU governments would find it more difficult to meet the Maastricht treaty's economic criteria, which include deficits near three per cent of gross domestic product in 1997, the year in which they will be judged for financial fitness.

A second form of risk relates to Europe's economic outlook.

While most economies are more or less in synchronisation with one another, the present harmony could be disrupted by a number of factors, including political patience.

"For political and social reasons France has less capital in terms of time,"

says Peter Praet, chief economist at Generale Bank in Brussels.

French President Jacques Chirac recently took the unusual step of saying that both French and German interest rates were far too high and had scope for a large reduction.

Such forthright comments may hint at the frustration France is having in keeping up with the rigours of EMU, say analysts. The pressure is all the more noticeable given Bonn's latest budget-slashing programme, which will put France in a less favourable light.

Lastly, there are some outstanding questions about EMU's transition process. Analysts say recent talks to secure a budget stability pact have veered from the tough plan first outlined by German Finance Minister Theo Waigel.

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Arabs account for 30 per cent of total investments at AFM

** ACCORDING TO Umayyah Touqan, director-general of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), Arab investments account for about 30 per cent of the total value of Jordanian stocks. He estimated the market value of shares traded at the AFM at JD 3.5 billion. In an interview with the Abu Dhabi Television, Dr. Touqan said most of the investments was from the Arab Gulf governments which invested its surplus from the oil sales in 70s in participating in Jordanian companies such as the Housing Bank and the potash company in addition to many other firms.

At present, Dr. Touqan said, "we have been noticing interest from the private sector in the Gulf states. We know this from the inquiries that the stock exchange receives and from the reports that are submitted daily by the brokers of the deals they process for non-Jordanians." He hoped that the volume of investment

would increase in the coming stage. Statistics show that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the largest investors at the AFM (Al Aswaq).

Traders found forging coupons for subsidised milk and sugar

** INVESTIGATIONS ARE currently underway with 21 of Amman's leading traders accused of manipulating and forging supply coupons issued by the Ministry of Supply to enable people buy subsidised rice, sugar and milk. Judicial sources said the traders erased the ministry's stamp showing that coupon was for milk and replaced it with a stamp showing the coupon to be that of sugar. As such, the accused were making more profit due to the price disparity between the two commodities (Al Ra'i).

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.4817	0.6482	1.2025	106.65	1.3748	1615.25	1.6623	5.0355	
DE Mark	0.6749		0.8119	71.94	0.9280	1022.30	1.1220	3.3887	
GB Sterling	1.5428	1.5428		1.8566	164.55	2.1210	2.3727	2.5641	7.7673
CH Franc	0.8316	123.14	0.5384		88.63	1.1431	129.04	139.30	4.1836
JP Yen	0.0094	1.3892	0.6074	1.1272		1.2896	14.20	155.81	4.7197
CA Dollar	0.7274	1.0777	0.4708	0.8735	1.29		1101.84	1.2090	3.6828
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9775	0.4274	0.0793	1423.08	0.9074		10.96	3.3210
NL Guilder	0.6016	69.08	0.3896	72.30	64.10	0.8271	910.95		3.0273
FR Franc	0.1985	0.2842	0.1286	23.8686	21.15	0.2731	32.99	32.9900	

Energy		
Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	20.45	20.40
WTI	21.20	21.30
Bony	20.45	20.40
Dubai	18.30	17.80
UL Gas	199.00	198.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.3953	0.17283	0.3209	28.4446
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40367	0.17649	0.3277	29.0478
KW Dinar	3.3462	4.96032	2.16873	4.02739	357.015
BR Dinar	0.3770	3.93236	1.71939	3.19285	282.965
CY Pound	2.1647	3.2079	1.4026	2.6029	230.811

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz)	389.1	389.6
Silver (oz)	5.09	5.11
Platinum (oz)	403.4	404.4
AL (3 Months)	1502	1505
CU (3 Months)	1916	1920
Zinc (3 Months)	1036	1039
Lead (3 Months)	801	805
NI (3 Months)	6930	6940

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)						
Currency	1 -	3 -	6 -	9 -	12 -	Year
USD	5.25	5.37	5.58	5.56	5.84	
GBP	5.75	5.69	5.75	5.81	5.94	
JPY	0.40	0.50	0.84	0.84	1.00	
DEM	3.12	3.18	3.06	3.12	3.34	
FRF	3.59	3.71	3.83	3.87	3.98	
CHF	2.19	2.28	2.31	2.37	2.31	
ITL	8.53	8.40	8.28	8.15	8.09	

Main Equity Indices						
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low
New York	DOW JONES	5688.71	8.88	0.16	5696.48	5679.39
New York	S&P 500	662.56	0.07	0.01	663.84	662.19
London	FT-SE 100	3788.3	17.7	0.47	3790.6	3773.8
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	21077.47	137.08	0.65	21188.1	21019.8
Paris	CAC 40	2013.19	-10.22	-0.51	2031.49	2009.65
Frankfurt	DAX	2520.93	12.28	0.49	2524.9	2517.18

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/ton)	117	Spot
Cocoa (S/ton)	1395	Spot
Sugar (S/ton)	370.5	Spot
Wheat (S/ton)	195	Spot
Soy (c/ton)	23.19	Spot
Tea (kg/kg)	108	Spot
Barley (S/bsh)	3.51	Spot
Rice (S/ton)	425	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.0931	1.0986
DE Mark	0.4799	0.4823
CH Franc	0.592	0.595
FR Franc	0.1413	0.142
JP Yen	0.6816	0.6849
NL Guilder	0.428	0.4301
IT Lira	0.0467	0.0469

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

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Sports

Sydney warned to heed lessons from Atlanta

SYDNEY (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch has cited communications, security and transport as the key areas Sydney must address at the 2000 games, Australia's sports minister said Monday.

"Mr. Samaranch highlighted security, transport and communications as the areas which required special attention in Sydney," Warwick Smith said after meeting Samaranch in Atlanta.

Mr. Smith said he would report to Australian Prime Minister John Howard before the end of August with recommendations on security, quarantine and customs provisions for the 2000 games.

"I am particularly concerned... that there is a single command structure in place wherein one person is ultimately made accountable for all matters relating to security," Mr. Smith said in a statement.

Two people were killed and 110 injured in a bomb blast in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park during the games which ended Sunday.

Australian officials are also considering the introduction of new security laws to expand the powers of police, and intelligence agencies ahead of the Sydney games.

Existing security plans feature two electronic fences at the main Sydney Olympic site and infra-red cameras, metal detectors and built-in movement alarms at all Olympic venues.

Atlanta was plagued by traffic congestion during the games, its transport system for athletes, spectators and media, did not meet demand and the games' computer system failed to deliver prompt and accurate results.

After witnessing Atlanta's



The mayor of Sydney, Australia, Frank Sartor, leaves the Olympic Stadium carrying the Olympic flag to his country, the host of the next summer games in the year 2000, at the Atlanta Olympic closing ceremony Sunday (Reuters photo)

troubles. Sydney officials have begun drawing up plans for a full-scale test of the city's infrastructure in late 1999 or early 2000.

"We've got to give ourselves enough time so that we can make any fine-tuning necessary before the event," said New South Wales (NSW) state Premier Bob Carr after returning from Atlanta.

Mr. Carr said a number of events would be held simultaneously at the main

Olympic site in Sydney's west as part of the exercise.

"We are confident we will be able to put together a programme that will be exciting enough to attract the crowds needed for a dress rehearsal," Mr. Carr said.

Atlanta was a privately-funded venture but the NSW state government is underwriting the 2000 games and has budgeted to spend 1.9 billion Australian dollars (\$1.46 billion) to stage them.

As part of the budget, the state government will build a new railway link between the Olympic site and the city centre at a projected cost of 93 million Australian dollars (\$71.6 million).

Several Olympic venues, including the swimming centre, athletics training track and rowing venue, have already been constructed. Building work has yet to start on the main Olympic Stadium and the athletes' village.

Australia's media Monday urged Sydney organisers to learn from Atlanta's painful experience.

"The hard lesson from Atlanta is that it is easier to win the games than to run an efficient Olympics," the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper cautioned in its editorial.

The newspaper said Atlanta made crucial mistakes in failing to build all the venues well in advance or properly organise its army of volunteers.

Another newspaper warned that Sydney's airport did not have the capacity to cope with the surge of international visitors expected during the Olympics.

But the herald concluded its editorial, saying: "Sydney, ironically, is now well-placed to run a successful and efficient Olympics because Atlanta — unfortunately — failed to do so."



An Australian man wearing a traditional bushman's hat waves to the flotilla of boats gathered on Sydney Harbour Monday, for a TV telecast to the closing ceremony at the Atlanta Olympic Games. Sydney will stage the next Olympic Games in the year 2000 (Reuters photo)

Doping controversy mars last games hours

ATLANTA (R) — Fresh doping controversy marred the final hours of the Olympics on Sunday as IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch openly criticised Atlanta organisers and China took a last swipe at the city.

Bullet-scarred Josia Thugwane provided South Africa with symmetry and symbolism in the final track event, winning the marathon to add to compatriot Penny Heyns's golden swimming double right at the start of the games.

In the boxing, Ukrainian super-heavyweight Vladimir Klichko won gold to end the dream of outsized Tongan Paia Wolfgramm — who fought with a broken wrist and nose — and David Reid of the United States sensationally floored Cuban Alfredo Duvergel to grab the light-middleweight title.

There was a first Olympic gold for Croatia, in the men's handball, and the cat-like grace of Ukraine's Ekaterina Serbryanskaya secured her first place in the individual rhythmic gymnastics event.

But although the sporting achievements — not least of Thugwane in the closest marathon of Olympic history — gave the last day a memorable flavour, there was a familiar bitter taste as fresh controversy and confusion brewed over a Russian drug.

Sports sources said a second Russian track and field athlete had tested positive for bromantan at the games.

The name of the athlete was not immediately known, but the person would be the fifth Russian to test positive for the drug, developed by the Soviet military and used on cosmonauts.

A Lithuanian cyclist also tested positive for bromantan. The latest news broke hours after a world tribunal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport, defied the International Olympic Committee and upheld a Russian appeal in the case of two medal winners, swimmer Andrei Korneyev and wrestler Zafar Guliyev, who had tested positive for bromantan.

The tribunal said in a statement there was scant scientific literature on bromantan and its properties. It gave the pair "the benefit of the doubt".

Hours before the curtain came down on the world's greatest sporting show at what promises to be a glitzy closing

ceremony, Samaranch gave a foretaste of his speech when he said the ill-starred games could have been better.

"I don't want to say that in Atlanta they were not doing the best they could for us," he said in an interview with Germany's Welt Am Sonntag newspaper. "But perhaps it could have been better."

The IOC president also said he did not favour privately-funded games like Atlanta which has been widely criticised as too trash.

He did not expand on this at a final Atlanta news conference, nor would he divulge whether he would be billing the games "the best ever," the traditional final accolade for a host city.

But he did call for controls on commercialism.

China, which complained almost non-stop during the Olympics, took one final swipe at Atlanta, accusing organisers of being arrogant and making profit their top priority.

"The organising committee allowed these Olympics to get too commercialised, and put profit above everything else including the interests of the athletes," Chinese Olympic Committee Deputy President Yuan Weimin said.

Even before the games left Atlanta — the next summer Olympics will be in Sydney in the year 2000 — there was an early taste that things could soon return to normal in one of the most violent cities in the United States.

An off-duty national guardsman was killed and a colleague wounded in a drive-by shooting as they returned, out of uniform, to their temporary accommodation in an Atlanta suburb. The incident did not appear to be linked to the Olympics.

In the marathon, Thugwane, a security guard at a miners' hostel, clocked two hours 12 minutes 36 seconds — just three seconds ahead of South Korean Lee Bong-Ju and eight ahead of Eric Wainaina of Kenya.

His win was all the more remarkable because he had recovered from being shot in a car hijacking in March.

South Africa, who reappeared in the Olympics at the Barcelona Games in 1992 after decades in apartheid isolation, won two Atlanta golds in swimming, courtesy of Heyns.

Chang downs Krajicek to win L.A. title

LOS ANGELES (R) — Top seed Michael Chang finally won in Los Angeles in his fourth trip to the final, downing second-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek in straight sets to claim Infiniti Open title.

The speedy American raced past the eighth-ranked Wimbledon champion 6-4 6-3 in 72 minutes, avenging a loss in the 1993 final. "It feels great to win here," said Chang, who grew up in nearby Orange County. "I've spent a lot of years playing here and this place has always been special to me."

Chang, ranked a career-high third in the world, pocketed \$43,000 in winning his 26th title and third this year.

Krajicek, a two-time winner of this event, was playing his first tournament since his historic Wimbledon win. But with the excep-

tion of his big serve, the Dutchman was never on top of his game this week.

Krajicek seemed lethargic in dropping his serve in the opening game and his big weapon failed him again in the seventh game. He managed to break back to pull within 3-5 but Chang, using his remarkable speed to chase down everything, served out the set.

"The only moment I really felt comfortable was when I broke him back in the the first set," Krajicek said. "He was the one who was dominating basically. I felt I wasn't moving too well and maybe I was a little surprised by his speed. He's a little quicker than the other guys."

In the second set, Chang broke Krajicek at love for a 4-3 lead. He sealed the win with another break in the final game on a cross-court volley winner.

Volunteers sell their uniforms as games end

ATLANTA (R) — A new group joined the hustlers on Atlanta's streets Sunday — Olympic security guards and volunteers selling their uniforms before the games had even ended.

About a dozen security guards contracted for the Olympics and volunteers ranging from drivers to ushers tried to sell their uniforms and straw pith helmets shortly before the closing ceremony.

They set up at a junction of Atlanta's central peachtree street that is packed with tourists, fans and stalls selling T-shirts, caps and other Olympic paraphernalia.

They asked up to \$200 for helmets and uniforms. Some were successful in selling them for as much as \$100, onlookers said.

International Olympic officials have complained about the "commercial clutter" in Atlanta's streets, which have been turned



Uniforms from Olympic volunteers and security guards are peddled by their owners on the streets of Atlanta Sunday as the centennial games come to a close. Many Olympics staff are offloading personal items to the public to cash in on demand, in addition to scalpers selling closing ceremony tickets at less than half their official price (Reuters photo)

into a vast, overcrowded outside market during the games.

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France can play in the process, especially regarding to behavior, in the of the traditional ties with that country.

Mr. Hagedornberg said